No 3,560

FEATURES, PAGE 17



## Newspaper of the Year for photographs

#### Aitken's daughter arrested over libel trial plot

Frog facts

INDEPENDENT

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IN A sensational development. in the Jonathan Aitken affair, the former Tory minister's 17year-old daughter was arrested on suspicioo of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

lice station where she was questioned in connection with his collapsed libel action.

Officers from the Metropolitan Police also arrested Said Ayas, 56, the Saudi and Aitken's bill at the Paris Ritzhotel in September 1993, an arrangement which proved to be

the former minister's downfall. Mr Ayas was then the business manager of Prince Mohammed bin Fahd, the son



of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. Last night a member of the Aitken family disclosed to The Independent that they believed Mr Aitken's wife Lolicia would also have been arrested yesterday, had she not been out of the

Mr Aitken's wife and daugh-Victoria Aitken was taken by ter had both been due to give her aunt from her father's evidence in his libel action home near the House of Commons to a central London powere due to support his claim that Mrs Anken had paid the Ritz hal. Mr Agas had provided Mr Airken with a statement saying he had pood the formers.

Adres find always events was based on what he had been told by his wife and daughter. After studying west-ten witness statements signed by the women, police officers travelled to Paris and Switzerland to examine the evidence.

The family member, who asked not to be identified, said: "We were expecting something like this (the arrest of Victoria Aitken | - it is all to do with the stay in Paris. She is not particularly upset about this, although it is not a pleasant experience for a young girl to go through.

This has been hanging over the family for such a long time.

It has got to be resolved." Ms Aitken, who is studying for A-levels at a sixth-form col-



tion and was met by a crowd of Ayas to pay his Ritz bill. photographers and reporters.

on suspicion of conspiring to

pervert the course of justice."

after leaving for the police sta- legations that he allowed Mr

The minister's battle to clear In a brief statement, Scot- his name using what be memoland Yard said: "A 17-year-old rably described as "the simple girl was interviewed at a Lon- sword of truth and the trusty don police station today at a shield of fair play" led to his hupreviously arranged meeting. miliation as the case collapsed She was subsequently arrested last June. He was forced to drop the action when lawyers acting for The Guardian and Granada The arrests provided the Television produced evidence

supposed to have paid the hill.

The libel action, which began in 1995, was expected to lead to Mr Aitken's financial ruin but he was recently appointed to a position with defence giant GEC-Marconi.

Mr Aitken resigned as Chief Secretary to the Treasury in April 1995 to fight the libel action. He lost his seat at South Thanet, Kent, which he had represented

#### Murder case man tortured to death by Maze loyalists

Damien Trainor, the friends

shot dead in an LVF gun attack in a bar in the quiet Co Armagh

village of Poyntzpass earlier this month. The killings re-

ceived widespread publicity, principally because the two

men killed, a Protestant and a

Catholic, had had a lifelong

friendship which transcended

Keys was no angel, being in-

volved in both paramilitary ac-

tivity and drug-trafficking. In

common with quite a few in-

volved in the drugs trade, he did business with both loyalists and

republicans. This activity al-

most got him killed in Novem-

ber last, when he was shot as he

sat in a car in east Belfast and

was badly injured. A loyalist group was responsible.

But he survived and, if the

security forces are correct, he

drove the car used in the shoot-

"looked a bundle of nerves".

given information to detectives.

He must have known that this

put him at risk from his LVF as-

sociates, but apparently be-

lieved they would either oot

know of this or would forgive

It seems that Keys, while un-

the sectarian divide.

Ireland Correspondent

DAVID Keys, the loyalist found hanging in the Maze, supposedly the UK's most secure peoal institution, had been tortured and died a slow death.

The authorities believe he most probably died of strangulation before his loyalist associates strung him up and left him hanging him in his cell. But first they spent time beating and severely abusing him with various home-made weapons, causing horrible injuries, before slash-

mg his wrists. He was found hanging in the prison oo Sunday morning. He did oot know it, but he was a dead man from the time he had been escorted into the Loyalist Volunteer Force wing a few days earlier. Last night an LVF prisoner at the Maze was arrested in connection with the death.

Some weeks ago, it is believed, he was involved in two murders carried out by the LVF; he did not realise that he was destined to become the next initely not guilty, definitely not victim of that group's savagery. guilty to any of them murders."

The outside world may won. During the court appearance. der how it is that in the UK's according to one observer, highest-security prison a group of loyalist prisoners have the opportunity to torture David Keys. almost at their leisure. The answer is that conditions at the Maze prisoo leod themselves very easily to such an attack.

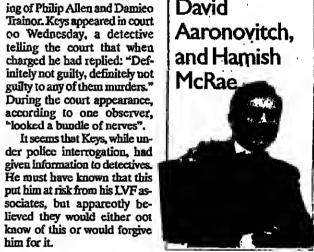
The jail is heavily guarded, but behind the multiplicity of walls, wire fences, gates and bars are the actual wings, consisting of 26 cells and a number of other rooms. And here the prisoners ruo the show, which means the paramilitary groups they belong to are in charge. Staff normally go into this area

only at pre-arranged times. Last week, Keys and three other men were charged with lege in Oxford, returned to the latest twist in Mr Aitken's disthat Mrs Aitken had been in since 1974, at the last election. the murders of Philip Allen and

#### THE BUDGET GORDON **OPENS THE BOX**

■ Read the Budget'98 20-page section in tomorrow's Independent for all the details

Unrivalled coverage of all the news, analysis and more from our team of writers, including Andrew Marr, David



#### Sex claim 'mystifies' Clinton

By James Roberts

PRESIDENT CLINTON yesterday did his best to put as much distance as possible between himself and the woman who is possibly the most credible witness yet to testify about his sexual behaviour.

Kathleen Willey, 51, told on television on Sunday how, in November 1993, outside the Oval Office, Mr Clinton kissed her, touched her breast and put her hand on his genitals, as she asked him for a job.

ton said he was "mystified and come forward. It may make her disappointed by this turn of a more credible witness than events. Commenting on the alleged sexual encounter last summer, Mr Clinton said through his lawyer that he may have been trying to console Mrs Willey, whose family faced financial rain. In his recent deposition in the Paula Jones sexposmon in the Pania Tones serval barasament case he said he may have kissed this Wiley on the forchead because she was so distressed.

Mrs Willey was an early supporter of Mr Clinton with no

Yesterday, speaking at a apparent political axe to grand, Maryland high school, Mr Clin- and was originally reductant to

others who have accused the

President of sexual harassment. In 1992, Mrs Willey and her husband eagerly supported the Clinton-Gore ticket. She spent election night 1992 in Little Rock celebrating Mr Clinton's victory. A few weeks later, she began working as an unpaid volunteer in the White House social office.

The Senate Majority leader Trent Lott said Mrs Willey appeared believable in her televised statements.

Four legs good in the Cold War

THE FOREIGN Office tried to use a cartoon version of George proved "a most effective propa-Orwell's Animal Farm to counter the spread of post-war communism in British colonies in the Middle East and the Far East, according to documents released yesterday.

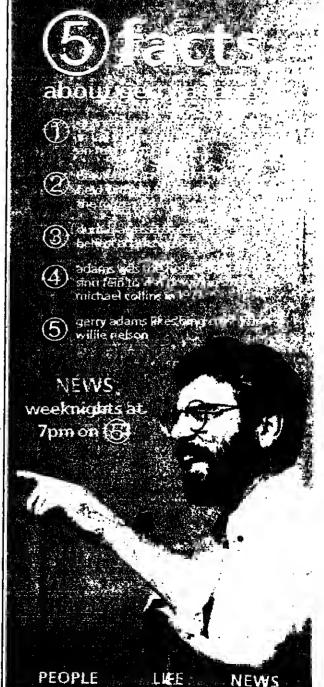
In 1950, as the Cold War began to take hold, the authorities Russia and China were trying to extend their influence in colonies such as Singapore, what was then Malaya and Egypt. So dients and you will appreciate the

cover Information Research Department tried to win hearts and minds with a work which had

ganda weapon" in the West. Cartoonist Norman Pett and scriptwriter Don Freeman were called in to create the cartoons, but soon ran up against the Foreign Office's lack of flexibility. Lieutenant-Colonel Leslie Sheridan insisted on a "regular drill" grew increasingly concerned that to ensure prompt delivery of the cartoon at his secret headquarters. "I have already begun send-

As the secret files from the Public Record office reveals, the cartoonists also ran into problems with their designs for the farmyard animals. Sheridan complained that Boxer "the faithful, steady, plodding cart horse ... looks too pansy. He looks almost as effeminate as Pretty Polly herself."

The cartoon was not successful. Baffled by the lack of interest in Egypt, the IRD cabled the Cairo embassy, saying: "We suggest that a local artist convert oak trees into palms and substitute feathers for bowler Clinton defence, page 10 Christopher Mayhew's under-importance of being regular." hats and turn skirts in sarongs."



#### Computer buffs forge ahead for an easy buck

By David Usborne

THE AMERICAN dollar has tiplying stendily. It is the perrather the computer and its co-

conspirator, the ink-jet printer. To the dismay of the US freasury, increasing numbers of citizens are making a common discovery: that even inexpensive

counterfest money.

Images of the banknotes. whether in \$100 denominations a new enemy. It lurks in homes or lower, are freely available on all across the land and is mul- the Internet. Any computersavvy person can download sonal computer, alias PC. Or them and print them. An alternative is to scan in a real

> So easy, a child could do it? Certainly. Among the hundreds of cases of computer-forging turning up across the country,

out more or less convincing found to have printed out just created notes represented difficult for police to discover nationwide campaign to educate

Matthew Hagens, 16, of Long Island, New York, was arrested last month, for instance, for passing a fake \$10 note to room, police said.

Robert Rubin, US Treasury Secretary, wants longer sencases. His department calcu- ever-changing technology." many involve school pupils lates that while computer-

a few, sometimes simply for a about 1 per cent of counterfeit and then effectively to charge. people, shopkeepers especially, three years ago, the proportion has grown to 4.3 per cent, and

Writing to a government buy bubble gum. He found the commission that sets sentences, images from an Internet chat Mr Rubin said: "Traditional law-enforcement methods, as well as the scotencing guidelines, must be adapted to meet tences to be available in forgery the challenges created by this

money in circulation in the US While it is hard to explain away an off-set printer and ern forger has oothing more incriminating than a PC and printer. There may just be a from the local stationers. flooppy disc with images of ban-

The notes will usually fool a shopkeeper but will generally be spotted as a fake by any bank. The computer-forgers are The Treasury is to launch a

tigators are lucky.

on how to spot cyber-money. One tip: be suspicious if the gallons of green ink, the mod- ink smudges or if the paper feels

wrong. The Treasury does not print its money on paper bought



INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 • CROSSWORDS, P32 AND EYE P10 • TODAY'S TELEVISION, EYE P11, 12 • FULL CONTENTS, P2

#### TOMORROW

MC jabber, Malika Boco, Pink Sly: Let's hear it for performance poets THEEYE

The artist who turned the tables on sexistart THEEYE

■ The secret of success: walk on hot coals CITY+



Remember the days: Yusuf Islam in Harrods yesterday for the signing of his Bosnia war charity album

Photograph: Tom Pilston

#### Return of the artist formerly known as Cat

" Madule cla

YUSUF Islam, better known as Cat Stevens, yesterday returned to music after 20 years, by launching a charity alburn. But he insisted he was no longer interested in the music business and the "sex, drugs and rock and roll" associated

He was joined by MP Martin Bell and a special envoy of the President of Bosnia-Herzegovina, to launch the record which will raise money for charities in the war-ravaged country.

After he converted to Islam. Yusuf Islam was persuaded to abandon pop music in 1977 by orthodox Muslim teachers who said h was forbidden by Islamic law.

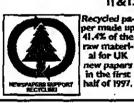
Yusuf Islam said yesterday: "I am not a professional musician any more. Music has its place und I do it for love of a no-

"It is the difference between the music business and the sex, drugs and rock and roll associated with it, and culture."

#### Scientist berates secrecy over BSE

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By Charles Arthur

A LEADING scientist yesterday condemned the "culture of secrecy" in the Ministry of Agriculture which led it to repeatedly refuse outside experts who could have belied it Anderson and his team at Ox- lifting the export ban from that tails of ages and locations of analyse and curtail the epidemic of "mad cow disease",

Professor Roy Anderson of Oxford University told the BSE inquiry panel yesterday that in scientific circles it had been regarded as "like getting blood out of a stone" to persuade the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Maff) to let independent scientists examine its full, and very detailed, database of cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

It took him seven years to be allowed to view it, and even

ing made public. Spirited opposition by his university eventually ted to that demand

being watered down. Yet the work of Professor

forming its culling strategy, while a paper published today on the epidemic in Northern Ireland should form the basis for

which be said had contributed to the BSE problem.

His first approach to get access to the full database, with de-strong culture of secrecy".

Beef ban to be lifted for Northern Ireland certified herds

World weather Atlantic chart, noon today

with Maff in analysing the incidence of bovine tuberculosis, during which he experienced "a

feet a total of only about 20,000 cattle. Instead, more than 161,000 cases occurred. Professor Anderson's team has demonstrated that more than analysis of the epidemic than I million cattle were actually inhad been made by Maff's scientists. In their first paper on fected with the BSE agent. the disease in 1988, they foreand that the cases eventually diagnosed were only the "tip of the iceberg": many of those in-

> into the human food chain. Analysis of the data did suggest BSE was not caused by exposure to organophosphates (OPs), he said, though it was possible they had some trigger effect on cattle which ate contaminated feed. Professor Anderson said it was too early to know how many people might be affected by the fatal "new variant" Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (v-CJD), reckoned to be

fected cattle would have gone

#### ford is held in international re- region by the European Union. cattle diagnosed with BSE, was casions in the next two years. then the first version of the conmade to Maff in May 1989. Pro- but each time was rebuffed. gard: his report on the BSE epi-The professor also told the tract offered by Maff would fessor Anderson told the inquiry Professor Anderson had inpanel of his dismay at the decline demic in the UK mainland was have prevented his research bepanel. In 1984 he had worked tended to make more careful in funding for science in the UK, used by the Government in

By Katherine Butler

EUROPEAN Union agriculture ministers last night approved the first lifting of the worldwide ban on British beef. In a significant breakthrough for Tony

Blair's government, ministers overruled objections from Germany and Belgium to endorse a scheme allowing exports

a matter of weeks", according to EU of- Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. ficials. The breakthrough will provide a export trade, which prior to the ban was worth £200m a year.

Northern Ireland has 27 000 cattlerearing farms, accounting for 12 per cent of the total UK herd. The industry has been decimated by the EU ban imposed from healthy cattle in Northern Ireland. after Britain admitted the possibility of ers in the province will be given leave after Angust 1996 could be exported.

The first exports of beef may follow "in a link between beef and new variant to export beef from animals under 30

The incidence of bovine spongiform buge boost to the Northern Ireland beef evcephalopathy (BSE in) Northern Ireland has been especially low; cattle there are mainly grass-fed so were never exposed to contaminated and Ulster's computerised data base permits cattle movements to be reliably traced.

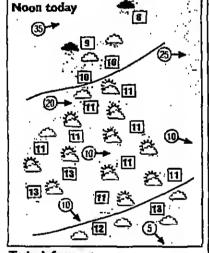
Under the terms of the deal, farm-

nonths from herds which have been free of BSE for at least eight years.

Jack Cunningham, the Minister of Agriculture, now accepts that the certified bends scheme will probably never extend to the rest of the UK. Instead, efforts are being concentrated on winning approval in Brussels for a separate database scheme moder which cattle born

caused by BSE-infected food.

**FORECAST** 



Today's forecast Northern Scotland will start dry but it will become increasingly wet and windy Southern Scotland and Northern teland will have a dry and bright day with the best of the surmy spells in the east. Northern England and north Wales all also be fine with some good sunny periods developing. Meanwhile, the rest of England and Wales will start mostly cloudy with a few spots of drizzle, but surnier skies will push down from the north, finally reaching the south coast in the Outlook for the next few days

The bulk of the UK with be settled through the coming week with warm sunshine by day and chilly nights. However, in Scotland there will be a few showers in the north and west for Wednesday. Thursday will see increasing cloud in Scotland bringing outbreaks of rain to many parts. However, this will clear for Finday to allow some warm spring surshine.

British Isles weather marcontacible figure at noon local time C. cloudy; Cl.clear; F.tair, Fig.log. Hz.hazo, Munist. Rusin; Air quality

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bro deges for your area indicated by the above map Source. The Met Office. Calls charged at 50p per min at all teres (sec VAT). High tides

Hell (Albert Dock) Dun Laughaire Lighting-up times ...CE.18 \_\_06 09 ....05.17 Sun & moon

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**HARTSTON** WEATHER WISE

SPRING, they say, is just around the corner. In February, spring pretended it was here, but those nice men at the Met Office told us not to be taken in, because the start of March would be wintry again. And they were right - though it was not as bad as expected in the South-east.

Now they are expressing cautious optimism that spring really is about to begin, but what exactly does that mean? the least consistent in its be- or not to carry an umbrella.

haviour. All that remantic nonsense about rebirth, and daffodils, and trees in bud and lambs froficking in the fields gives us a false impression of spring as a time of pleasant weather. Fine spring days certainly bappen with a fair frequency, but the statistics suggest that long, settled spells of good spring weather do not occur as often as we would like to believe.

The meteorologist Professor Hubert Lamb once drew up a table showing the frequency of long spells of consistent weather in Britain. It showed, for example, that in mid-summer, we occasionally had week upon week of low pressure, or long spells of westerly or north-westerly winds. In February and early March, we quite often have cold easterlies settling in for long periods. But from the beginning of April until the middle of June, the only thing that is consistent about the

Mary Mary

weather is its inconsistency. Spring, for all its excellent public relations, is not really a season at all. It's just 10 Spring, of all our seasons, is weeks of not knowing whether

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man. Houself, and Mangions, responsed to commends and littles 97 is a supplement of the Houself Companions, Dallacey at 1901 (1971-27) and WCT) per operary. France, it available subject to printing, Full december and believe to the commendation of the Printing of the Pr

#### BSE

herds

At 47, Mr Brown is oot

time that suits them.

Friends believe that they are uncommonly well suited, temperamentally and ideologically - quite apart from being

Ms Macaulay, 34, has impeccable New Labour credentials. The public relations consultancy that she runs with founded on the philosophy of "integrity PR" and bas organised oumerous fund-raising events for the Labour Party.

On B personal level, she is cast in a similar mould to the Chancellor. Both are serious-

THE ETHICAL PR COMPANY

Hobsbawm Macaulay's launched Emi-

women into Parliament. Other clients,



Waiting game: Sarah Macaulay is happy to hang on for the right moment to marry Photograph: Barry Bland

minded people. Where he is parent since her early teens, acthought dour, she is seen as cording to teachers at Acland Julia Hobsbawm, daughter of aloof. Certainly, she is self-suf- Burghley, the comprehensive Eric, the Marxist historian, was ficient, reserved, even cool, al- she went to in north London. though those close to her insist she is warm-hearted and "good art for four years, said vesterfun" in private.

There is one other similarity. Like Mr Brown, Ms at something in order to learn Macaulay, is formidably intel- it. She was particularly interlige ot, a trait that has been apested in the history of art, and

**GORDON'S PAST CONQUESTS** 

Sarah Macaulay is not the first woman to If Ms Macaulay ever moves into Downly's List, aimed at helping more Labour be bowled over by the Chancellor. His preing Street, she will bring her cat, Fevious girtfriends include Sheena McDonald. past and present, include the Com- the television presenter, Marion Caldwell. mission for Racial Equality, Shelter and a barrister, and, while Mr Brown was at university, Princess Margarita of Romania. The latter has explained recently why

Joe Kusner, who taught her

lix. That could spell problems with the neighbours, as Cherie Blair is famously unenamoured of felines. But Ms Macaulay is devoted to Felix. A friend said: "She's been known to forget to feed herself, but goes to all-night supermarkets to get Felix his cat food."

**CATFIGHT IN DOWNING STREET?** 

Radio 4 defies sceptics as new schedule claims high ground

in a new interview programme called The Choice Jonathan Dimhleby will grill a major public figure for an imaginary new challenge in *The Candidate*. is to be dumbed down were laid to rest yesterday wheo its new Kate Adie will become the first permanent presenter of From months of speculation by un-Our Own Correspondent. There will be several fami-

ANY fears that BBC Radio 4

controller, James Boyle, ended

veiling a new schedule which is

Archers and Woman's Hour will

be backed by more drama.

books programmes and more

up which Mr Boyle described as

many of Radio 4's most high-

profile presenters - including

Melvyn Bragg from Start the

Week, James Naughtie from

Today, Jeoni Murray of

Woman's Hour and Ned Sher-

rin - were present at the launch

They will soon be joined by

John Peel, Kate Adie, Michael

Buerk and Martin Bashir (who

interviewed Diana, Princess of

Wales for Panorama), who have

been given prominent roles in

unhappy yesterday were mem-

bers of the Bectu broadcasting

union, angry about joh cuts.

Seventy posts are to go in top-

ical features and 30 will be axed

unioo's veiled threat of indus-

trial action mar his carefully re-

hearsed unveiling of the oew

claimed as a slick audiovisual

in Manchester and Bristol.

The only people noticeably

at Broadcasting House.

the new line-up.

positively Renthian.

indisputably highbrow.

orientated new strands, in-Extra episodes of The cluding Home Truths, which will be presented by John Peel, who made his name as an almore current affairs, more ternative music DJ on Radio 1.

The network's flagship comedy in a programming line- Today news programme is being stretched to three hours and there were assurances that its To reinforce the point that content will not become "more there has been no abandonment fluffy", as some papers had of traditional standards at the speculated. However, its content will be adapted in an atmainly speech-based service, tempt to hook occasional Steve Mitchell, deputy head

of oews programmes, said: "Some people doo't use us as much as they should. They believe in news terms we are a rather staid and stuffy perception." That is still a perception of Radio 4 in general, its controller conceded yesterday. Mr Boyle said the network's pofaced and pro-establishment reputation worried him "more than the Rajar figures", a refcrence to the quarterly audits of listening figures which show that Radio 4's audience is predominantly old and dwindling.

"We need to persuade more people that Radio 4 is worth listening to," Mr Boyle said. "But But Mr Boyle did oot let the I've got to maintain the intelligence and variety of programmes, otherwise it won't be Radio 4." He described the new schedule to a packed press schedule as Reithian, a referconference. "It's the richest ence to the BBC's founding schedule ever," he proudly prosupremo, a fellow Scot who committed the corporation to presentation listed the changes. a triple mission to inform, educate and entertam.

As expected, a number of long-running strands are being "It's the views of the listenaxed, including Face the Facts, er which have shaped the new Afternoon Shift, Kaleidoscope, schedule and it's the best ever," Mediumwave and Sport on 4. Religious listeners will have to casting that the changes would Media and Sport, told the get up at 5.45am to hear the Morning Prayer. The Morning the home of quality, intelligent corporation to make sure plans Service will also start earlier on and engrossing speech radio - for the controversial pro-Sundays. Moral dilemmas will the richest speech network in gramme do oot breach its own be explored by Michael Buerk the world."



BBC stars at Broadcasting House yesterday: Clockwise from left: Kate Adie, Tommy Pearson, Lars Tharp, James Naughtie, John Waite, Trevor Harrison, Donald Sinden, Niamh Cusack, John Humphrys Photograph: Andrew Buurman

#### Smith warns BBC over lottery show

THE BBC got a stern warning from the Government yesterday about its involvement in a new lottery scratchcard game which has been widely condemned as "the biggest gambling show in history", writes Rob Brown.

In response to an emergency motion in the House of Commons, Chris Smith, the Mr Boyle said, confidently fore- Secretary of State for Culture, "reinforce Radio 4's position as chairman and governors of the

The public broadcasting ser- mercials and billboards oow the terms of these guidelines, by Gerald Kaufman, chairman of the Select Committee on Culture, of violating its own guidelines and contravening "its very basis of existence" by promoting the game entitled

Conservative Culture spokesman Francis Maude said beyond the limits of the charter the programme is" through its own "eleventh hour" decision to withdraw its name from promotional material for the programme. Television com- stated that it will comply with provisions."

vice had earlier been accused make no mention of the oew church organisations have show. But it remains the case that the contestants must purchase a scratchcard.

The BBC's producer guidelines warn against competitions which "risk being interpreted as gambling or a lottery". They state that the Lotteries and Amusements Act of on a game of chance and some sort of donation, purchase or contribution is made".

joined politicians in condemning the BBC's National Lottery Big Ticket Show, which will be launched on 28 March.

Mr Smith said yesterday that he was "not exonerating" the BBC and added: "I will personally expect the chairman and governors of the BBC to exthe BBC had shown "how far 1976 may be contravened if "a amine very carefully the proviviewer competition is based sion of their charter and agreement, which they are there to uphold, to ensure that the plans for this programme do Although the BBC has not breach in any way these

one about the

Neither have we.

Have you heard the

unfriendly Irishman?

#### Dr Spock, who threw out the childcare rule book, dies at 94

Health Editor

ALL YOU need is kindliness. said Dr Benjamin Spock. The childcare expert who played midwife to the flower children of the Sixties died quietly on Sunday, aged 94, at his home in California, having helped a generation of post-war parents dump the rigid strictures on child rearing they had been told to follow and learn how to relax.

Despite his huge success as an author - his hooks sold 50 million copies around the world - he died burdened by debt. Recently his wife, Mary Morgan, appealed for help to pay his medical bills which were running at \$125,000 (£78,000) a year.

The six-foot four-inch former psychiatrist, who once confessed he oever kissed his own sons, told pareots not to be overawed by experts and oot to listen to everything the neighbours said. His approach was based oo putting parents at the centre of child rearing. "Trust yourself. You know more than you think you do," was his message.

It was eagerly received. Advice manuals of the time gave instructions about when to pick up the baby (or more ofteo when oot to), wheo to put down, when to feed and how to discipline. Dr Spock urged parents to follow their instincts. "We know for a fact that the natural loving care that kindly parents give their children is a hundred times more valuable," he said.

His first book, Commonthat followed were translated into 30 languages. His success was so great that he was accused of being the father of permissiveness and of having prodoced a "Spock-marked generation of hippies".

and author Sheila Kitzinger said yesterday: "He was a rad-



Benjamin Spock: Midwife to the flower children

ical. He learnt from mothers by watching what they really did. He told them to trust their own feelings. No one had ever said that to mothers before."

Later, Dr Spock joined the generation he was accused of producing in protests against the Vietnam war and nuclear power. He ran for president in 1972 as a candidate of the People's Party, but polled less than I per cent of the votes. In his mid-seventies, he started psychoanalysis, an emotionally demanding process normally confined to the under-forties, demonstrating his appetite for self-renewal.

Although he was later accused of having recanted and taken a more moralistic tone, there is little evidence for it. "Nothing I have read suggested he wanted 10 expose children to strict discipline," Ms Kitzinger said,

He himself was clear about his views. "I may as well let the cat out of the bag right away as far as my opinion goes and say that sense about Babies and Children. strictness or permissiveness is not published in 1946, and those the real issue. Good-hearted parents who aren't afraid to be firm when it is necessary can get good results with either moderate strictness or moderate permissiveness. On the other hand, a strictness that comes from harsh feelings or a permissiveness The childbirth campaigner that is timid or vacillating can each lead to poor results."

Obituary, page 19

#### Aisle be damned - Sarah's sticking close to her man

#### IN THE NEWS

#### SARAH MACAULAY

FOR more than a year, gossip columnists have been confideotly predicting that Gordon Brown and his girlfriend, Sarah Macaulay, are "soon to marry" But when the Chancelior holds his briefcase aloft for the televisioo cameras in Downing Street this afternoon, Ms Macaulay will not be at his side writes Kathy Marks.

about to be bounced by public opinioo into tying the knot, as he made clear in an interview with The Independent on Sunday at the weekend. But Ms Macaulay, according to friends, is equally adamant that if the couple do ever decide to get married, it will be for their own private reasons and at a

patently smitten with one an-

she was expounding her own theories at the age of 13 or 14. "There was one art history teacher who was quite intimidated by Sarah because she knew so much and would try to catch her out."

Ms Macaulay speot part of her childhood living in Tanzania. Later her parents split up and she lived with her mother and two younger brothers in north London, but spent summers with her Scottish father in Fife. She took A-levels at Camden Girls School, where she first met Ms Hobsbawm, and read psychology at Bristol University.

At the agency, which the two women set up five years ago, Ms Macaulay is managing director and runs much of the day-to-day business as well as her own projects. She likes classical music. American crime fiction, working out at the gym, and is a member of Soho House, the private club favoured by New Labour, where she has been seen dining with Mr Brown.

Ms Hobsbawm said: "Sarah is very passionate politically and morally. She's got a very strong work ethic and strong principles, but she's good company socially. She can be one of the girls."

She and the Chancellor have been "an item" for nearly three vears and spend much of their spare time together, including weekeods at his house in Scot-

But apart from a couple of day: "You had the impression photo-calls, they conduct their that she only needed to glance relationship in privacy. As one friend said yesterday: "It's very close, it's very happy; that's all

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the NSPCC as well as media and publishing outlets such as the New States man, Virago Press and The they broke up: "It was politics, politics, pol-

#### Newcastle disunited as football soap takes seedy twist

By Simon Turnbull

THE sign above the main entrance to St James' Park stood large and bold. Yesterday, however, Newcastle was anything but united. Tyneside had once again been thrown into turmoil by its resident soapopera: Newcastle United Football

Tony Banks even made a guest appearance as the latest episode continued to unfold yesterday. "I'm looking for a very strong denial that the claims concerned are not true," the sports minister said, "but if they are true it's a very sad day for Newcastle."

The world beyond Tyneside might have thought it was sad when 20,000 locals crammed into the car park at the football ground just to see Alan Shearer stand on a balcony wearing the black and white strip of Newcastle United for the first time - or when life in Newcastle ground to a grief-stricken halt the day Kevin Keegan, the permed messiah who saved the club from extinction and led it to the promised land of the FA Carling Premiership, suddenly upped and teft for pastures

Keegan and Shearer both feature in the new script of Tyncside's ongoing football farce, though the alleged description of the Geordie icons as - respectively - Shirley Temple and Mary Poppins was the least damaging of the less than neighbourly remarks attributed to Freddie Shepherd. Newcastle ca shirt and deriding Tyneside United's chairman, and Douglas women as "dogs" had Newcastle de-Hall, the club's vice chairman, in cidedly disunited yesterday,



a Sunday newspaper article. Alleged boasts of a scoring spree in the brothels of Europe, of fleecing fans for £45 on each £50 repli-

It also had the Prime Minister, a confirmed supporter of Newcastle United, "very concerned", according to Sir Jeremy Beecham, a former leader of Newcastle City Council and a visitor to 10 Downing Street yesterday.

concern about the article in the News of the World.

He said: "If what is claimed was actually said the views are disturb- true then quite frankly it will

aide, Mr Banks, slow to express his ing around the country that some about the way they are treated." fans do get ripped off by some clubs in terms of replica kit.

Mutiny in the

Disgruntled

Newcastle fans

Toon Army - at

the club's ground St James' Park

resterday as a

poard meeting

secret location to

allegations that

chairman Freddie

Shepherd (right,

top) and vice-

Douglas Hall

North-east

all 'dogs'

boasted about

fleecing fans and claimed that

vomenfolk were

Main photograph: Will Walker

(bottom)

was held at a

the self-styled

ranks:

"If these views as reported are ing and quite trankly will anger all confirm some of the worst beliefs tending an emergency hoard himself,

Nor was Mr Blair's sporting decent fans because there is the feel- that some football supporters have Mr Shepherd and Mr Hall, how-

ever, were conspicuously silent and conspicuously absent from Newcastle yesterday. They were at-

meeting of the football club. The location was secret, but not the item on the top of the agenda.

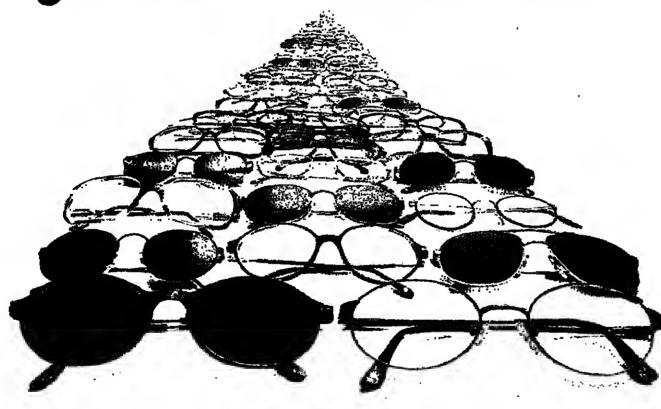
\* Man sciss Newcastle United plc opened for trading on the stock market yesterday at 84p per share, op down. With more than £9m having been knocked off the club's valuation at the stroke of a Sunday newspaper pen, the question was whether the chairman and the vice-chairman would have to go.

Maybe not, the sound of silence emanating from St James' Park suggested. Yes, 90 per cent of callers to BBC Radio Newcastle's phonein show poll insisted. Two said they would be sending back their season tickets in disgust; one called for Kecgan's appointment as chairman. Surprisingly, only Julie from Dipton spoke up for Tyneside's sleighted womenfolk, "How can they slag us off when they look as ugly as they do?" she demanded.

Away from the red-hot air waves, there was support for the allegedly errant sons of Tyneside. Mark Jensen, editor of The Mag, a fanzine devoted to Newcastle United, said: "I don't think they should resign and I don't think they will. Every football (an knows that replica shirts are a rip off. If Newcastle have been selling them to subsidise Alan Shearer it's fine by me."

Shearer, the England captain, is depicted on the front cover of The Mag's latest edition as the Angel of the North, the huge steel sculpture erected in Gateshead last month. Yesterday he was keepiog his thoughts - angelic or otherwise - to

#### Which free pair will vou choose?



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#### **Grant cuts** no barrier to student excesses

By Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

WHEN it comes to drinking medicine and dentistry stucultural students would get a first for effort, while those social scientists and art stustudying the arts and social sciences come top in the dope-smoking department, according to a survey of 10 universities.

A drugs conference will hear today that physics students are among the most likely to experiment with drugs other than cannabis, and future doctors, dentists and vets are some of the biggest consumers of LSD.

Analysis of a survey of 3,700 second-year university students provides a fascinating insight into the drinking, smoking and drug habits of the different college faculties.

Top of the drinking league are biological science students - mainly those studying agriculture - 23 per cent of whom exceed the "hazardous"

Students from all faculties exceeded the weekly "low risk" drinking limit of 10.5 pints a week for men and seven for women. Veterinary and medical students were the most moderate boozers. Binge drinking - more than five pints in one evening - was most commonplace among biological science students, which resulted in some of them missing lectures three times a

Professor Heather Ashton, of the Department of Psychiatry. University of Newcastle upon Tyne, one of the report's co-authors, said: "This tells us that students drink one hell of a lot. Despite complaining about not having any money, they certainly seem to have enough when it comes to alco-

Cannabis was the most popular illegal drug, with experiences ranging from 71 per cent in arts students to 42 per cent in veterinary science stu-

On the question of the use of all drugs, faculties of art (7) per cent), social science (70 per cent), biological sciences (67 per cent) and physical sciences (64 per cent) were the

After cannabis the most

popular drug was LSD, with about half of engineering, law, mathematics, accountancy, amine, or "speed" was used by

Professor Ashton said: "This was popular at exam time as it helped students stay awake revising all night."

Surprisingly, researchers found little evidence that students became stressed by the amount of their drug taking and drinking, or by the debts they ran up paying for these ac-tivities. Their love lives and examination pressures were the most stressful aspects of university. The students who were least stressed were those

Canabis use among second-year students, more than once per week, % 16.2 dedicine 11.1 Vet. Sci. 8.8

with high alcohol consumption and who played a lot of sports which may explain the relaxed demeanour of university rugby club members.

The report also noted that most students had developed their drug and drinking habits before going to university. "The choice of degree course by a student may be influenced by his/her personal characteristics which also affect the type of lifestyle pursued,"

Smoking tobacco was greatest in biological science, arts, and social science students, of which about a third regularly had a cigarette.

Analysis of the survey's findings, which was completed last year, but has not been published in a national newspaper before, will he discussed at a conference today at the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals in London. The event is part of the London Study Safety Campaign organised by London Drug

#### A check on passports

TRAVELLERS leaving the United Kingdom will no longer have their passports checked, a Home Office minister announced vesterday.

Mike O'Brien said that the checks, which cost £3m per year, were "an expensive fiction". They would be replaced by improved closed-circuit television and by targeted, intelligence-led operations designed to catch criminals and child-abductors.

Mr O'Brien also disclosed yesterday that under a 1991 rule change asylum-seekers who had waited seven years for a decision were automatically considered for Exceptional Leave to remain here. However, he ied reports that there were plans for an amnesty of all 75,000 backlogged cases.

Domes warm C

#### Alarm success for prostitute

ONE OF the personal alarms issued by police to Glasgow prostitutes has saved a 21year-old woman from possible

attack, it emerged yesterday. A prostitute in the city's red-light district became the first to use the alarm after a man started threatening her, said police, who detained a man over the incident. The police added that the incident showed the value of the devices issued two weeks ago by detectives investigating the murder of Glasgow prostitute Margo Lafferty, 27.

#### Rail misery

COMPLAINTS from passengers on privatised train services have soared to record levels, it was revealed yesterday.

Many passengers still face "totally unacceptable levels of disruption to their daily journeys", said the London Regional Passengers Committee.

The committee, which covers 19 of the 25 train companies, received a 20.5 per cent rise in complaints about main line and London Underground services in the last three months of 1997.

> A little can mean so much When you are weary of pain and barful of the unknown, hate thing Can mean so much

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given so generously in the past and look forward to your continuing support. Every donation, however small makes a difference and is

ST. IOSEPH'S HOSPICE

Crime Correspondent

edy twist

THE inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence was dramatically halted yesterday after suggestions that the chairman of the hearing had shown that he was insensitive to race

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, will meet the black teenager's parents, Neville and Doreen, today to discuss their concerns about criticisms contained in a oewspaper report which outlined a number of cases in which Sir William Macpherson, the retired judge, was supposed to have been racially insensitive.

The move came oo the first day of the inquiry in London which is expected to last up to three months and s seen as one of the most important



- D.

check on

20,000

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A 25

Alarm success

Rail miser)

Stephen Lawrence (right) and Sir William Mcpherson

Photographs: Reuters

race investigations carried out since the Scarman inquiry into the Brixton

riots in 1981. Sir William yesterday attacked the article in the Observer oewspaper, which he dismissed "with contempt"

and later disclosed he was considering legal action. The inquiry was postpooed until oext Tuesday.

Mr Straw said yesterday: "The Lord Chancellor and I have complete satisfaction" with the article. confidence in Sir William's ability to conduct this inquiry with fairness and

sensitivity," he said. Michael Mansfield OC, counsel for Stephen's parents, told the hearing his clients had "very legitimate concerns be discussed it is wise and sensible I about the inquiry and these concerns should say oo more." they wish to discuss with the Home Secretary prior to any inquiry actually said today: "We give careful consid-

beginning".

at last year's inquest into Stephen's murder at which Doreen Lawrence had claimed the whole justice system, from the initial investigation to the Old Bailey trial of three men, "had let them

"They felt there were serious deficiencies at all stages," Mr Mansfield

"It is against this background that they wish to take this unusual step," he added.

Stephen, an 18-year-old A-level student, was stabbed to death in April 1993 waiting for a bus in Eltham, south-east London, by a gang of white

On Friday, the Police Complaints Authority revealed it had recommended that a senior serving police officer involved in the case should face a disciplinary charge of neglect of duty. Nobody has been convicted of the mmder despite a criminal trial and a pri-

Among the incidents cited against Sir William was that a study of judicial reviews in immigration cases by 15 different judges in 1987 found that he had the highest rate of refusal. It was cited that in another case cited he ruled that a white parent could withdraw a child from a class with a large number of Asian children.

Sir William said the article had not checked its facts.

personal allegations with contempt." He said the article referred to cases he had handled "eight, nine, 10"

"I mention it only to dismiss the

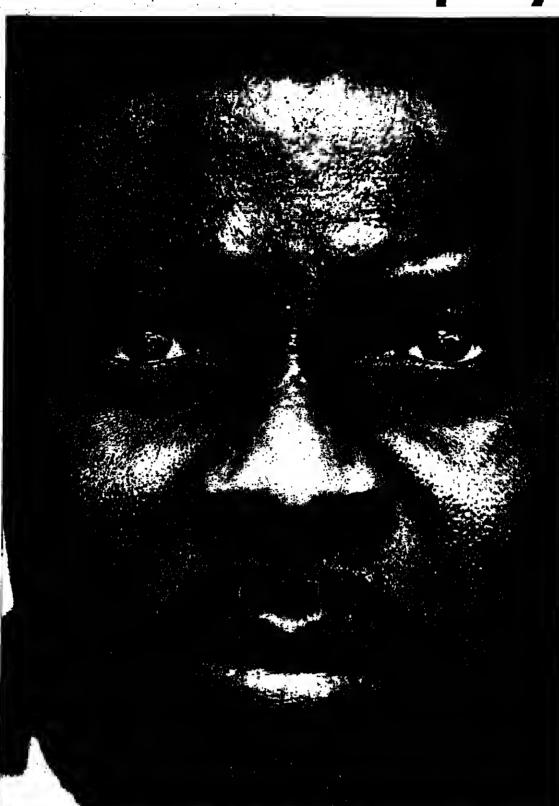
Sir William said he was concerned about claims about the inquiry itself, "namely the suggestion that I have denied access to documents to one party or the other.

This is wholly untrue. That is a reflectico oot only on myself, but on my advisers and staff. I resent and deny the allegation."

Sir William has written to the editor of the Observer "expressing dis-

After granting Mr Mansfield's application for an adjournment so the Lawrence family can meet the Home Secretary, Sir William said: "In view of the fact that my own position is to

A spokeswoman for the Observer eration to all complaints and will ment further in due course.





#### Think-tanks roll into battle

What is the Smith Institute? "We don't know anything about it at all. I've never heard of it," said a member of the Policy Unit at Labour's Millbank headquarters. Nor had Professor Amartva Sen, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, heard of it when he was invited to lead one of a series of policy sessions sponsored by the institute to be held at No 11 Downing Street. Any suggestion that this is an aspiring alternative think-tank to the No 10 Policy Unity oext door, led by Geoff Mulgan of Demos fame, is strictly Pandora's.

#### Another 70s taste crime

Pandora has received an irresistible invitation for this Thursday. Vogoe night club ou Wardour Street is offering something called "70s line dancing". Line dancing, right, is sometimes called "waltzing for manure kickers" as it is performed by cowboys and cowgirls to their favourite C&W songs. When Pandora asked a clob organiser what was particularly noteworthy about "70s" line dancing as opposed to, say, line dancing in 1986 or 1997, no cogent answer was fortbcoming.



#### Murdoch's new friend?

Rubert Murdoch, the well-known Sinophile, was in London recently. As is his custom, he spent a considerable amount of his time visiting Wapping. But far less customary was the breakfast he held with the Leader of the Opposition. According to one predictably objective Tory source, Murdoch found the Boy Wooder "very impressive". Was it the way he ate up all his Cocoa Pops?

#### **Cuddly toy ... pork belies**

First Newsweek turned us into a bestselling cover story with "Cool Britain". Now another American magazine is seeking to increase its circulation on the back of Blighty. A recent issue of Business Week leads with "The City of Londoo - Why It's The Center of Global Finance". The cover picture features a London trader in his colourful jacket bearing the obligatory photo ID badge. Closer inspection, however, reveals that the badge photograph is not of the jolly trader but none other than comedian Bruce Forsyth. What a marvellous tribute, Brucie, to your 50 years in showbiz.

Pandora

#### **Doctors warn of injuries** from acupuncture

for prostitute By Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

> ACUPUNCTURE, the alternative therapy chosen because it is natural and holistic. is not as safe as people think, researchers

Serious complications have occurred in at least 300 cases in the last 30 years, according to a worldwide review of research. Experts say the true scale of the problem is likely to be much greater because of "huge" under-reporting.

Injuries have been caused as a result of inadequate understanding of anatomy by the acupuncturist combined with "aggressive oeedling". The commonest serious injury is pneumothorax - piercing of the chest cavity causing the lung to collapse. Other injuries include damage to the heart, spine and skin by inappropriately placed ocedles.

More than 1 million adults in Britain are estimated to have had acupuncture, 3 per cent of the population. It is widely used to treat pain, including headache and

arthritis, and for nausea, to help weight loss

and to assist recovery from stroke.

The findings of the review of safety, by Dr Hagen Rampes of the South Kensington and Chelsea Meotal Health Centre, were presented to a conference in Loodoo yesterday. Dr Rampes said it was important to understand the risks of the procedure because it was becoming more popular and was used increasingly in the NHS. Last year Prince Charles appealed for alternative therapies including acupuncture to be made more widely available.

Dr Rampes said reports of life threatening complications from acupuncture had been made since 1965. They included delayed or missed diagnoses, deterioration while undergoing the treatment, pain caused by the needles, and drowsiness which could affect driving. Infections caused by dirty needles had led to cases of hepatitis - an outbreak was reported at a oorth London clinic last month - septicaemia and perichondritis (inflammation of the cartilage).

Serious adverse reactions were esti-

mated at between one in 10,000 and one in 100,000, he said. Normally they would be dealt with by hospital doctors and in many cases these failed to take a proper history which revealed the cause of the problem.

He said acupuncturists oeeded to know about anatomy but there was no system of registration or requirement to undergo training. "These miuries can be prevented with proper training and prudent and cautions ocedling."

Professor Edzard Ernst, head of the department of complementary medicine at the University of Exeter, said: "Acupuncture is oot totally safe. We know of serious side effects but we are at a loss to establish how frequently they occur. Underreporting must be huge." He said acupuncture associations should establish their own registration and training system.

He added that the technique was still likely to be safer than drugs. "More people die of aspirin than of acupuncture oeedles. The acupuncturist is more dangerous than the acupuncture."

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DAILY POEM

Displaced Person Looks at a Cage-Bird

by D J Enright

Every single day, going to where I stay (how long?), I pass the canary In the window. Big bird, all pranked out, Looming and booming in the window's blank.

Closing a pawky eye, tapping its hairy chest. flexing a brawny wing. Every single day, coming from where I stay (How long?), I pass this beastly thing.

How I wish it were dead! - Florid, complacent, rent-free and overfed, Feather-bedded, pensioned, free from wear and tear, Earth has not anything to show less fair.

I do wish it were dead! Then I'd write a better poetry On that poor wee bird, its feet in the air, An innocent victim of something. Just like me.

This week's poems celebrate D J Enright's half century as a published poer and come from his new Collected Poems 1948-1998 (Oxford University Press, £15). Enright taught English for many years in the Far East and Egypt, and has also worked as a publisher, critic and editor. This poem first appeared in Some Men are Brothers (1960).

#### Newborn baby strangled

DETECTIVES investigating the death of a newborn baby found discarded in a bin bag outside a children's theme park said yesterday that the child had been strangled.

Police launched a murder inquiry after the child's body was discovered on Saturday by a man walking his dog. Detective Chief Inspector John Hester said a post mortem carried out on the body of baby "Callum", found dumped in a wooded area next to Gulliver's World in Warrington, Cheshire, confirmed the cause of death as strangulation. He appealed for help from the public, and said he was disappointed with the response so far. This lack of news about the mother suggests three possible scenarios," he added. "One, that she is somehow involved in Callum's death; two, that she is oow too ill to come forward; or three, that someone else may have disposed of the body and that person is holding the mother against her will."

#### Mugger's sword attack

A MUGGING victim had his right hand partially severed after he was attacked by a man with a sword, police said yesterday. West Midlands Police said the unnamed man, aged 31, underwent an emergency operation to sew on the hand after being attacked in Foleshill, Coventry, on Friday.

A spokesman said the attacker, who was hlack and in his late-twenties, produced the weapon after his victim refused to hand over the cootents of his pockets. He added that the injured man, who is recovering in hospital, had raised his hand to protect himself from the sword.

#### U-turn as veterans get Gulf illness test

By Ian Burrell

THE first official clinical tests of Gulf war veterans have been ordered by the Government more than seven years after the end of the conflict.

Until now, the only studies aimed at discovering the causes of so-called Gulf War Syndrome have been epidemiological, with veterans and serving soldiers being asked to



John Reid: Change of tack by the Government

fill out questionnaires on their health and Gulf experiences.

These studies have been received with hostility by many veterans - who regard them as slanted - and dogged by the difficulties of tracing sufficient respondents.

Yesterday in a change of tack, the armed forces minister John Reid said a group of randomly selected veterans will be subjected to clinical testing.

He said it would provide a "thorough and objective assessment" of the veterans' conditions, "My decision to fund this research ... underlines my commitment to address Gulf veterans' concerns sympathetically and seriously," he said.

formed part of the Government's New Beginning programme, launched in July, and aimed at winning back the confidence of the veterans.

But the minister's announcement quickly ran into controversy as it emerged that the two-year clinical study is to be overseen by Professor Simon Wesseley of King's College School of Medicine, in London.

Professor Wesseley, a psychiatrist, has already angered veterans by claiming that they are just as healthy as the rest of the population. He has already been commissioned by the American government to run a US\$1m epidemiological study into Gulf illnesses in Britain.

Tony Flint, of the National Gulf Veterans and Families Association said: "This study is five years too late. We have already lost 160 guys. It also worries me that Professor Wesselev is on record as saying that Gulf veterans are healthier than the average person."

Victims of Gulf war illnesses experience dehilitating illnesses including chronic fatigue, muscle wastage and depression. Many veterans blame their condition on the cocktail of vaccinations and tablets taken by personnel in the Gulf. Some were also exposed to pesticide sprays.

Around 1,600 veterans may take legal action against the Ministry of Defence,

Richard Barr, of Norfolk solicitors Dawbarns, said clinical testing of 40 veterans was under way.

"Our own studies should be completed well before the end of the year and hopefully we will have some answers before these government trials



Sparkling: Susan Martin, organiser of Diana, Princess of Wales, A Tribute in Dress -- a charity ball, fashion show and auction evening set for 29 May in Oswestry, Shropshire, -- with a royal gown to go on show at the event, which was announced at Christie's, London, yesterday Photograph: Rul Xavier

#### **Mobile** phone alert for drivers

By Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

DRIVERS should refrain from using hand-held mobile phones. the Government has warned Baroness Hayman, the road safety minister, yesterday launched a campaign to wean motorists off them and published new guidelines on their use.

The guidelines, drawn up by the Federation of Communication Services, say that drivers should never hold a phone while driving. Ministers are keen to act now before phones in cars become so popular that drivers feel their rights are being infringed.

Although there were fewer that one million mobile phones in use in 1993, experts say that by 2003 there will be nearly 13. million-one for every two cars.

Changes to the design of many cars' interiors are on the way. Many manufacturers have been installing moulded arm-rest fittings to hold phones. Experts say these too can disturb concentration, hut they are less likely to distract.

Many people argue mobile phones have become necessary for their work. Edmund King, a Royal Automobile Club spokesman, agrees. "Used responsibly, they should cause no real distraction to the driver or danger to other road users," he said.

#### Suds set to fly in soap giants' revolution

By Glenda Cooper

Consumer Affairs Correspondent

IT COULD revolutionise the way we wash our clothes as much as the tea bag turned the tea market on its head. Britain's leading detergent manufacturers are planning a tablet that could replace washing powder.

The suds are bound to fly as both Lever Brothers and Procter & Gamble plan to bring out their own version of the tablet later this year, adding more fuel to the ongoing soap wars.

sold in powder or liquid form. The advantage of the tablet is that it would allow people to use the correct dose and cut waste and spillage. The advantage to the manufacturers is less clear-cut as consumers usually, at present, use too high a dose.

laundry division of Unilever, nor Procter & Gamble, would reveal the exact dates of the tablets' launch. Helen Fenwick of Lever Brothers said: "We will be launching nationally and we will be

Traditionally detergent has been the first to do that." She added the tablets were in response to customers' desire for "simplicity and conve-

Procter & Gamble are more cautinusly launching their version, Ariel Discs, in Grimsby and Cleethorpes in nt, use too high a dose.

Neither Lever Brothers, the home making sure that it is something that consumers want," said Dominic Hayes, public relations manager.

The renewal of the soap wars comes almost four years after Unilever launched the disastrous "Persil Power"

celerator to give greater cleaning power. Unfortunately the accelerator was defective and tests showed it could rot clothes in the wash. Unilever eventually had to withdraw the product.

If the tablets work, they will herald a "revolution", say industry watchers. But the tablets must perform as promised if the detergent makers are not to find themselves in the midst of another fiasco.

said: "[Manufacturers] had the tech- enal," he said.

detergent which had a manganese ac-nology for several years but they've held back because it would take away extra sales. I think now Levers doesn't have that much choice because they have seen their market share decline." He added that there were technical difficulties, that the tablets must "dissolve in water but not dissolve in the packet and there's some difficulty in that".

But Mr Hayes said that Procter & Gamble had cracked that problem with a soft inside and a hard outside which David Benady of Marketing Week only dissolves in water. "It's phenom-



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#### Civil servants block pardons for First World War deserters

By Anthony Bevins Political Editor

MINISTRY of Defence officials are locked in hattle with ministers over demands for pardons to be issued to more than 300 soldiers who were shot for desertion and cowardice in the First World War.

The Daily Mail newspaper reported yesterday that propardon campaigners were "like-

ly to have their hopes dashed". But Andrew Mackinlay, the Labour MP for Thurrock who has been leading the pardon campaign, yesterday backed ecuted during the First World ministry denials that any decision had been reached by and other battlefield offences John Reid, the defence minister who has been reviewing the

be meeting with lawyers and academics supporting the pardons campaign in the next few weeks," Mr Mackinlay said. "These meetings are being arranged at the request of the minister."

The Ministry of Defence said it was possible that ministers would announce their decision this summer. "But no timescale has been set," said a spokesman, who added that it

was a complex matter. Soon after last May's election, The Independent reported that the 307 British soldiers ex-War for cowardice, desertion "could be pardoned by the end

of the year". It is a reflection of official tenacity and resistance that

come to any conclusion since. At every step of the way, of-

ficials have managed to come up with a stream of legal, administrative and other reasons for a rejection of the pardon campaign backed by ministers. MPs and the Royal British Legion.

Officials have argued that if a hlanket pardon was given, some soldiers who were certainly guilty of cowardice would be included; and a review of First World War courts martial would open the "floodgates" to pardons - and possible claims

for compensation.

are trying to persuade Mr Reid that it would be more appro-

ministers have been unable to apparent injustice the men suffered - rather than the more formal process of pardon.

Mr Reid and more than one-third of the current Labour Cabinet voted for a pardon in the Commons in 1996, when the Conservative government successfully beat off a legislative amendment from Mr Mackinlay.

Last year, Mr Mackinlav tabled a Commons motion, arguing "that the vast majority of the 307 executed were as patriotic and brave as their million demands for more retrospective other compatriots who perished in the conflict".

It is argued that many of The men from the ministry the executed soldiers - some of whom were just 19 when they were shot -- were sufferpriate to issue a general ex- ing from post-traumatic stress pression of regret for the syndrome.

#### Peace protesters cite | Two held over 'laws of God' in court island murders

By Andrew Buncombe

TWO PEACE campaigners in their seventies cited the Coronation Oath of Elizabeth I when they appeared in court yesterday charged with cutting the fence

of an atomic bomb factory. Sarah Hipperson. 70 and Elizabeth Walford, 77, said that the production of nuclear weapons broke "the laws of God" -- something everyone is

duty bound to uphold. In what may be a landmark case, Reading Crown Court was told that the two women had been among of protesters who cut the fence at Burghfield Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) in Berkshire. They carried out their protest on 5 August 1996, the 51st anniversary of the first military use of an

atomic bomh at Hiroshima. Barnaby Evans, prosecuting, said that the pair, with two others, had cut the fence 74 times, causing £10,200 worth of dam-

age. The court was told that the women made no attempt to run away when they were arrested by Ministry of Defence officers. Ms Hipperson told officers:

"I would like to say that I cut the fence because of Crown land, belonging to Her Majesty the Queen. Under the 1558 Coronation Oath (of Elizabeth I) all citizens of the country, including officers of the Ministry of Defence and AWE, have to obey the laws of God. I believe what is happening in AWE Burghfield is contrary to the law of God and

that is why I cut the fence." Mr Evans said: "These defeudants are anti-nuclear campaigners ... You may agree with their views or you may disagree but it would be hard for anyone to doubt their sincerity." Both women, who gave their

address as Yellow Gate at the women's peace camp, Greenham Common, Berkshire, deny damaging property.

#### By Louise Jury

TWO ALBANIAN farm workers were named yesterday as the men facing formal murder charges after they allegedly

confessed to killing a British couple on a Greek island. Roy Eccles, 55, and his wife Judith, 49, were stabbed to death in Kaminarata on the island of Cephalonia in the early hours of Thursday at their

Lahros Pappas, 22; who lived in the same village as the couple, and Edward Elmazi, 19, were arrested at gunpoint on the neighbouring island of Lefkas after a brief chase.

The arrests came after a tipoff from a member of the Albanian immigrant community on Cephalonia. A police spokesman said

the pair had confessed to rankilling them. They left cameras, logic."

gold jewellery and other valuahles behind them when they

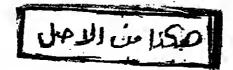
Detectives took samples from blood stains found on

the men's clothing. It had emerged the two farm workers were missing from Cephalonia after police questioned and fingerprinted more than 100 Albanians in the

wake of the killings. Impoverished Albanians flooding into Greece have been accused of a number of crimes

recently. Mr and Mrs Eccles retired to Cephalonia from their home in St Neot's, Cambridgeshire, last October. Their bodies were discovered by a neighbour, Richard Coward, 52, and Mrs Eccles'

hrother, Derek Wooding. Mr Coward said: "We still do not understand why they were murdered. I am angry. There is sacking the couple's vilin and no rhyme or reason to it - no



Phone alert for drivers

#### Brunei prince settles £180m case

By Kate Watson-Smyth

THE MOST expensive civil action in British legal history - between Prince Jefri of Brunei and two of his closest emissaries - was settled out of court amid speculation that the sultan had ordered his brother to put an end to all his court cases around the world.

A spokesman for the prince dismissed the idea of any intervention by the sultan. But it was confirmed that the prince and the Manoukian brothers, who were suing each other for claims totalling £180m, had reached an "amicable agreement" after negotiations between their lawyers in a London botel.

The details are confidential but a source close to the case said yesterday that Prince Jefri had ordered his lawyers to find a settlement. It is believed that both sides will share costs of around £10m.

Two weeks ago, a United States law suit filed by Shannon Marketic, a former Miss USA, who claimed that she was held captive in a Brunei palace for use as a "sex slave", was struck out. She has appealed and a similar case is be-



ing brought by two women in Hawaii. The latest deal, before any evidence was heard from Prince Jefri, has saved the youngest brother of the Sultan of Brunei from emberrassing cross-examination over his entravagant lifestyle, which included allegations of using prostitutes, gambling and "spending unimaginable sums of money".

Giving evidence, Bob Manoukian, who with his brother, Rafi, was suing

Manoukians (Bob, left, and Rafi, leaving the High Court) has saved Prince Jefri (right) an embarrassing cros about his lifestyle

the prince for £80m claiming be reneged on two business deals, told the court that Prince Jefri kept up to 40 prostitutes at a time at the Dorchester Hotel in the West End of London. The prince, a Muslim who has four wives and three children, was said to have built a string of palaces in his country, many of which were used for "his sex parties", the Manoukians alleged.

The court was also told that he spend millions of pounds on expensive objets d'art, including a set of diamond-encrusted erotic watches.

Based in London, the Armenianborn brothers claimed that Prince Jefri reneged on a £55m deal to buy and operate the £190m Adelphi office building in central London and a £25m verbal agreement to refurbish part of the former Playboy Chib. The prince counter-sued for an estimated

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channelled unreasonable profits out of him through an intricate web of companies based in Liechtenstein.

The case provided a glimpse into the lifestyle of the notoriously secretive Brunei royal family and, had a settlement not been reached, was likely to reveal many more claims about Prince Jefri's "appetite for extravagance and self indulgence". Even as a schoolboy the prince, 44,

had a love of ostentation. A pupil at King Alfred's, London, he would arrive every morning in a black Mercedes flanked by bodyguards. The school, which costs around £2,300 a term, was an unlikely choice for the prince, however. There are no uniforms and children are en--couraged to call staff by their first mames. A brochure says that "civilised

and relaxed behaviour is encouraged". The prince is well known for driving through Brunei in a black Porsche with two motorcycle outriders. He has a fleet of 600 cars and a 180ft yacht called Tits. His first love is polo, a game he is reputed to play superbly, and last year he spent £3.5m to entice the world's best polo family, the Heguys of Argentina, to play in Brunei for a year.

In the past he has flown the Chelsea football squad to Brunei to play against the national team, and persuaded Rod Stewart, Eltoo John and MC Hammer to perform at royal family get-togethers. But despite his extravagance, he is a popular figure in the sultanate where he arranged for the citizens to receive BBC television. the CNN network, and the London radio station Capital by satellite.

He recently bought Asprey, the Queen's jewellers, for £244m and was described in court as a "one man walking market".

However, the family's wealth is new. Despite being one of the oldest Malay ruling families, they lived in a modest house on stilts until the discovery of oil and gas fields in the late Sixties. The Sultan is now said to be worth an estimated £20bn.

The case afforded a brief glimpse into the lives of the richest family in the world but, having reached a deal, it is unlikely that they will allow their private affairs to be broadcast so wide-



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#### Plot to kill off extension to union rights

By Barrie Clement Labour Editor

THE Government has been conducting a vigorous behind- ten a letter to the other Eurothe-scenes campaign in Eu- pean Union governments in an prope to undermine moves to grant workers more rights.

Much to the anger of British unions, Downing Street has been-trying to head off a Euployees enhanced rights to consultation and information.

Yesterday the lobbying bore fruit when Unice, the European employers' organisation refused to meet their union counvoluntary code.

- ...... In the absence of an agree tary deal with unions. meot between the social John Monks, general secrepartners", the European Com- tary of the TUC, is known to be mission said it would now draft a detailed directive to force companies to inform and consult their employees. Unlike the directive on works councils, this initiative would affect organisations which only have workers in one country and possibly those with as few as 50 employees.

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The Government is not convinced of the need for the measure, but indicated that it would abide by any deal concluded by the social partners. But sources in Europe said that its mildly esceptical public position belied

its virulent opposition in private. Tony Blair's opposition to the idea was made clear recently to Chancellor Kohl of Germany who it is understood then persuaded his country's employers' organisation to drop their support of the policy. That was said

to be sufficient to ensure a vote by Unice against consultations

Whitehall officials have writattempt to enlist their support.

Adair Turner, director-general of the CBI, said there was "a real possibility" that there would be insufficient backing ropean directive to give em- . for the directive among European ministers. He hoped the commission would think again.

He said Unice had always been united in its opposition to the initiative. Employers simply had to decide whether they terparts to thrash out a could have developed a less harmful code through a volun-

> furious over the Government's attempt to head off the directive. Yesterday the TUC said that along with European colleagues British trade unionists were "disappointed" by the employers' decision. The TUC expected the Council of Ministers to vote for the directive and said the European Parliament was enthusiastic about the measure and was about to be given additional powers.

President Jacques Santer and Padraig Flynn, the employment commissioner, yesterday expressed their "deep disappointment" with Unice's decision. They said it undermined the whole concept of partnership which was at the heart of European decisi making and said they would call a mini-summit on the future of "social dialogue".

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#### **Drive to cut bowel** cancer with fibre

By Jeremy Laurance

THE Government joined forces with a cancer charity to promote the products of a breakfast cereal manufacturer

An alliance of 20 MPs including the health minister, Baroness Jay, backed an appeal by Kellogg's and the Cancer Research Campaign to increase consumption of high-fibre cereals such as All-Bran as a defence against Britain's second commonest - and least discussed - cause of cancer

Bowei cancer kills 49 people every day but half the 31,000 cases of the disease in the UK each year could be prevented if people ate more cereal fibre. fruit and vegetables, bealth conscious MPs said. As well as saving lives, NHS costs would be cut by £84m.

An opinion poll published vesterday by the Cancer Re-Rearch Campaign - which is receiving film over three years from Kellogg's - showed that 84 per cent of people were unaware that bowel cancer was a significant health threat, and less than 30 per cent knew that it was preventable.

The alliance said greater priority must be given to edu-cating the public about the risks of disease - it kills two out of three people who are diagnosed as having it - if the recently published Government target for reducing cancer is to, be achieved. Ministers pledged to cut the number of cancer deaths among under 65s by at least a fifth by 2010 in the Green Paper, Our Healthier Nation, published last manua.

Baroness Jay said: "We are committed to reducing cancer deaths in this country and we wholeheartedly endorse this campaign to encourage people to help themselves with simple dietary measures."

Professor Gordon McVic, director-general of the Cancer Research Campaign, said: "£84m of the NHS spend on bowel cancer treatment and diagnosis and the incalculable cost of human suffering could be saved each year if only more people knew about prevention."

The campaign, launched yesterday in the House of Commons, has been spearheaded by the Liberal Democrat president, Robert Maclennan, and follows an Early Day Motion signed by dozens of MPs.

#### Prescott wins £300m bonus to bring Tube up to scratch before sale

By Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

THE LONDON Underground is to receive more than £300m in additional cash to upgrade the ailing network in the run-up to the sale of the capital's track and stations.

According to a pre-arranged pact, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will make it clear in his Budget speech today that the money was woo by Joho Prescott, the Deputy

the political stage oo Thursday to outline his plans partially to privatise the Tuhe. He is expected to say that the octwork will be broken up into two or three infrastructure companies and then leased to the private sector for 20 years.

In the most plausible scenario, "subsurface" lines - the Circle, District, Metropolitan, Hammersmith and City - will form one franchise and the deep lines - the Victoria, Pic-

Prime Minister. Mr Prescott will take cadilly, Jubilee, Ceotral, Northern servative hudget, London Transport's and Bakerloo - will form another, or be solit into two.

Railtrack, which owns the natioo's track and stations, will be allowed to hid for the whole system, raising the spectre of a private mocopoly in place of a public oce. Mr Prescott, however, is keep not the let that happen.

Today's budget will make good some of the cuts imposed by the previous administration. In the last Conspending was cut from £920m in 1996/97 to £150m in the year beginning 1999. LT has also had to absorb about £500m extra costs from the de-

layed Jubilee Line Extension (JLE).

In order to alleviate some of the short-term cash shortages, Mr Prescott has wrung the funding from the Treasury. There will be £100m for next year and £200m for 1999. Tight Treasury constraints have been beet -which will see money saved this year

added to the next 12 months' hudget - yielding at least another £70m for the Tube. The Chancellor may also write off some the JLE's extra costs.

The money is desperately needed for the crumbling network. Mr Prescott has accepted that any reorganisation will need to raise £7ba to bring the system up to scratch.

The Deputy Prime Minister needs to tread carefully. He has had to placate the left by annoying Labour's modernising faction - by

bandying phrases such as "publicly owned and publicly accountable" while requiring new Labour's high priests to endorse his plans.

The result is a compromise. So train operations will be kept in the public sector - until they fail the public's aspirations. Then they can be sold off. Mr Prescott will also need to deal with criticism (already made by some trade unionists) that the privatepublic deal will fragment the Tube.

And Whitehall advisors are already

hatching ways to diffuse one political time-bomb: City fees. Mr Prescott has been warned that a Tube sell-off could cost £100m in advisors' costs.

Travellers face disruption on London Underground next week because of a one-day strike by guards. Members of the Rail Maritime and Transport union who work on the Northern Line will walk out on 26 March over the abolition of guards' jobs as the service switches to oneperson operation later this year.

#### **Brown and** Blair plan a budget roadshow

By Fran Abrams Pointcal Correspondent

GORDON BROWN likes to imagine himself as Lloyd George to Tony Blair's Herbert Asquith. But this week be will play Judy Finnigan to the Prime Minister's Richard Madeley wheo the two take to the road to promote their budget.

Clearly still stung by reports of splits, the two will underline how united they are by hosting a questioo-and-answer sessioo in London on Thursday. In front of an invited audience, the composition of which Downing Street was vague about yesterday, they will expand oo their vision of today's budget. Although the vecue for the session has not been revealed, it will take place at lunchtime,

Yesterday a spokesman for Mr Blair said he had worked out final details of the budget speech with Mr Brown at Chequers on Saturday. The Chancellor was expected to be on his feet for an hour, about the time he spoke in his first budget, in July. This week's budget would be part of a grand vision, the Prime Minister's spokesman said. It would form one of the most significant events of this five-year Parliament,

"He believes Gordoo is doing a brilliant joh and that he will be seen as one of the great radical reforming chancellors ... This speech will set a clear course for the next phase of the modernisation of Britain," he said. But the hudget would be grand in spirit rather than in reality, he added. "When I talked about the budget being big, 1 wanted VAT removed from was not being sizeist. It was a church repairs.

qualitative rather than a quantitative description."

At the heart of the package will be the theme of making work pay, designed to show there was a real difference between Labour and the Tories. However, some commentators were predicting the plan to bring an eod to boom-andbust economics would lead to more public-spending controls.

Long after the parameters of the budget had been set and several days after the fine details of the speech were discussed, the Chaocellor was facing heavy lobbying about its cooteots. He was being asked to provide extra money for everything from wildlife to church roofs.

The Liberal Democrats weighed in with a demand for extra funding for public services. This should include schooling for all three and four year-olds, smaller class sizes, more books and equipment and a programme to eliminate the education repairs backlog. The Chancellor should also cut hospital waiting lists, abolish eye and dental check charges and provide at least 4 per cent annual growth for the health service. All this could be funded by a penny oo tax and 5p on a packet of cigarettes, the party's Treasury spokesman, Malcolm Bruce, said.

Anti-smoking groups had more ambitious plans, demanding an extra 24p oo a packet of cigarettes, while the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds wanted pesticide taxes and the Church of England



Cooking up a statement: The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, in the form of a cake, getting a taste of his own medicine

#### Global phone taps feared in new EU deal

By Anthony Bevins Political Editor

PLANS to set up a global telephone tapping operation are al-leged to be behind a European anti-crime agreement being rushed through by European Ministers.

Two civil liberties campaign groups, Justice and Statewatch. have complained to the Lords Select Committee on the European Communities that a oew Convention of Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters is part of a larger, FBI-inspired project to create worldwide surveillance of telecommunications.

The first draft of the convention, in 1996, did oot meotioo the interception of telecommunications, and when an attempt was made to inject the issue into the convection last year, no agreement could be reached.

But British ministers tabled a compromise proposal in January, "in the hope of reaching carly agreement."

Under the plan, any country wanting to tap into satellite telephone calls would have to get normal domestic clearance. but the intercepting country where the satellite ground station was based - would simply have to "flick a switch" to give an instant relay of any conver-

It was argued that if the tapping country had to get domestic clearance as well, the whole process would be coowould "impose a possibly unwelcome administrative burdeo oo that state".

the draft convention broad endorsement, but it has reported create a global system for the surveillance of telecommunications."

That plan, Statewatch said,

was being implemented through a council of ministers resolution, adopted in January 1995 - but not published until November 1996 - and a memorandum of understanding between the EU and other countries, which was only deposited in Lords and Commons libraries in Fehruary 1997, in response to a parliameotary question.

The UK proposals were sent to the select committee on 12 January, with consideration by Brussels officials due on 26 January; the Lords Committee agreed its report oo 17 February, and it was published last week, oo 12 March.

Justice did oot receive a copy uotil last Friday, and the Home Office was unable to say wheo Ministers would be deciding the issue.

According to the Lords report, "Justice said that a group of 20 states, co-ordinated by the FBI, had been working towards a harmonisation of national laws to remove any obstacles to the interception of all forms of telecommunications by law enforcement agencies.

"In Justice's view, there was a serious risk that the Convention, combined with the [other] international agreements, would open the way to extensive and increasing surveillance of individuals both inside and outside the jurisdiction of the [EU] member states."

Madeleine Colvin, of Justice, told The Independent yesterday that she was dissatisfied with the siderably slowed down and it checks that were being carried out oo the new proposals - before they were pushed through.

"The difficulty is that it is all The Lords committee gave very technical and very few organisations are ever allowed to know what is going on," she that, "According to Statewatch, said." We get our information, there was an EU-FBI plan to oot directly from any Government department on this, but only from the House of Lords. There is really no proper coosultation."

#### US ambassador to Ireland retires

By Alan Murdoch Ireland Correspondent

THE American Ambassador to Ireland, Jean Keonedy-Smith, who played a critical role in early stages of the Northern Ireland peace process, is to retire in the summer.

The the youngest of six sisters of the late US President John F. Kennedy, used her family influence in carty 1994, wheo successfully lobbying the White House to allow Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams a visa to visit the US. The move, encouraged by the then-Taoiseach Albert Rey-

Unionist and Conservative circles in Britain, but was elsewhere credited with advancing

There was also cootroversy

over ber relations with embassy staff who disscoted with her pro-active role on Northern not by any means one-sided." Ireland diplomacy. Similar disagreements arose with US Ambassador to Loodon, Raymond Seitz, dow retired, who recentclose to Sinn Fein. The claims were forcefully rejected by the Irish Government. The Taoiseach Bertie Ahern said

nolds, caused uproar among yesterday "she has been with the peace process all of the away from the very beginning. If (the Adams visa support) had oot the August 1994 IRA ceasefire. bappened, it is no exaggeration to say that other events might not have fallen into place. She used good judgement. She was

Mrs Kennedy-Smith, 70, was appointed in 1993 by President Clintoo. She helped arrange his 1995 visit to both parts of Irely claimed she had been too land which attracted buge crowds. That experience is believed to have strengthened his interest in helping achieve a po-



Kennedy-Smith

#### **Defectors head for Lib-Dem sanctuary**

By Anthony Bevins

THE Liberal Democrats have notched up 24 local Labour defections since the election, the party revealed yesterday.

The latest switch took place in Liverpool last week, when new members cite several rea-Chris Newby, a Labour courcillor in the city's Broadgreeo ward, joined the Liberal De-

mocrat group on the council. Nick Harvey, the MP who chairs the party's Campaigns and Communications Committee, told The Independent yesterday: "We are delighted that a substantial number of Labour councillors have decided to join us." The Government decision to

cut child benefit for lone par-

ents was cited as a significant "catalyst" for the change. But Mr Harvey said: "Our sons for joining us. Many contrast our commitment to and "celebrines" who defected increase spending on public services, through carefully targeted taxes, with the Govern-

ment's broken pledges oo class sizes and health waiting lists. "Many, too, ideotify with our policies on constitutional reform and Europe."

night that it was not a question of the Liberal Democrats moving to the left; they had remained where they had always been, while Labour had moved to the right. The 24 defections since the election compare with

eight local Labour councillors

in the 12 mooths up to last May. Since the start of the year, the Liberal Democrats have been joined by councillor Carl Kisicki of Lewisham; Keith Toon, the ex-chairman of Hull West and Hessle Council; councillor Daniel McCarthy, of

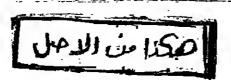
A party spokesman said last Southwark and councillor Meher Khan, former Mayor of Waltham Forest.

But Mr Harvey was also keen to point out that not all the defectors were from Labour citing "the decisions of former Tory MPs and MEPs like Hugh Dykes, Anna McCurley and Peter Price to become Liberal Democrats." Other Tory defectors include Keith Raffan. former MP for Delyn; Lord Thomas of Swynnerton; Arthur and Susan Bell, of the Scottish Tory Reform Group; and Lady Mary O'Hagan, former head of the Tory MEPs' Londoo office.



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#### Soldier 'covered his tracks' after killing girl, nine

A soldier pretended to be an anxious parent after killing his nine-year-old stepdaughter and burying her in an animal bur-

row, a court was told yesterday. Nigel Pascoe, QC, opening the case for the prosecution at Bristol Crown Court, said Private Miles Evans was trying to cover his tracks for the "savage and cruel" murder of Zoe in January last year.

He claimed that Pte Evans. 24, had taken the girl in the night from his married quarters home at Warminster, Wiltshire, to kill her and bury her head first in an animal hole on Battlesbury Hill, less than a mile from the family home.

Mr Pascoe told the jury that Mr Evans' wife Paula, raised the evidence, such as the T-shirt and alarm the following morning. Mr Pascoe claimed: "Miles Evans continued to pretend that he was an anxious parent but we say he was nothing of the sort. At all times we say he was the killer seeking only to cover his tracks and to divert suspicion from himself."

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The "callous killer" left behind two crucial pieces of evidence, said the prosecution blood and his semen, from sexual intercourse earlier with his Zoe." wife. The second was a pair of the child's pants, probably killed and when he was en route to burying her. Her body was not found for six weeks.

Pte Evans has pleaded not guilty to the charge that he murdered his stepdaughter at Warminster between 9 January and 12 January last year.

Mr Pascoe maintained that when the jury considered all the scribe how Zoe's body was



Zoe: Jury told stepfather left two crucial bits of evidence

particularly the time frame of the crime, it could only find one candidate as the killer - Miles

Any other possibility, the Crown claimed, would be fanciful. But Mr Pascoe stressed that Pte Evans had pleaded not guilty and had throughout denied his involvement.

Mr Pascoe added: "I want to stress in as clear a manner as I lawyer. The first was his own possibly can that the child's T-shirt, stained with Zoe's mother, Paula, played no part whatsoever in the death of

The court heard how Zoe was put to bed on the night of dropped after Zoe had been her death at 10.20pm. The police were telephoned the next day soon after midday and the biggest search ever conducted in this country for a missing. child began. The search involved neigh-

> bours, friends, police, Army personnel and helicopters. Mr. Pascoe went on to de-

found on 26 February on Battlesbury Hill, hidden in a hole used by animals. He told how at some stage animals had pulled the body out of the hole and the lower part of the child's remains were damaged.

Mr Pascoe said that Zoe had suffered an injury to her nose, and had inhaled blood and died of asphyxiation. He said her small crop-top had been stuffed into her mouth.

Mr Pascoe said suggestions that Zoe had left the house on ber own, had sleepwalked to ber death or that an intruder had broken in were inconceivable.

"His behaviour on the night after her death was quite extraordinary. While Paula

that a set of clothes belonging to Pte Evans was still missing. This, he said, was "very significant" as Zoe's murderer would have been covered in blood.

clearly enjoyed physical contact

whether Miles Evans's physical horseplay hid a darker attraction for his step-daughter," he told the court. told the court.

Mr Pascoe added that the way Miles Evans behaved in the hours after her death and the lies that he told were the actions of a man trying to conceal what had happened.

searched in desperation, Miles Evans went to bed. He said he wanted to keep his strength up for the morning of the search." Mr Pascoe told the court

Mr Pascoe told the court that Miles and Zoe had a good relationship and that Miles

there was play fighting between "It will be for you to consider a cloudy shade of white.



Poster art: The author Stephen Calloway dresses as Aubrey Beardsley yesterday to launch his book about the illustrator, published by V&A Publications. The Victoria and Albert museum is to run an exhibition of Beardsley's work in October

#### Bird foul-up blacks out lightships

By Roger Dobson

BIRDS which have been casting a shadow over solar-powered lightships are about to get an earful.

Thousands of birds have been leaving their debris on the ships and the with Zoe. He said most nights | solar panels, threatening the only power source for lightships and turning the highly visible bright red of the boats into

Now, in a bid to repel the unwanted guest, bird-scaring equipment is being installed on two unmanned vessels which will mimic the distress calls of half The trial continues today: I a dozen birds known to be regular visitors. Scientists hope the dawn-to-dusk chorus will deter the birds from fouling Lighthouse Service, said: "We have hit the solar panels and the ships, delegates to an international conference on pest management at the University of Wales, Cardiff, were told.

Birds have always been something of a problem for Trinity House, the organisation responsible for lighthouses and buoys around the coast of Britain, but the trouble has been exacerbated by the arrival of unmanned and fully automatic lightships, two of which are now on station in the Wash and at South Goodwin off Dover.

Barry Rodwell, deputy principal de-

velopment engineer with Trinity House a problem with birds fouling and it can be quite borrendous. We normally paint the ships red and they can get white all over in a very short time with the numbers of birds involved. These ships are painted red to act as a marker to shipping during the daytime and changing colour to white is not very

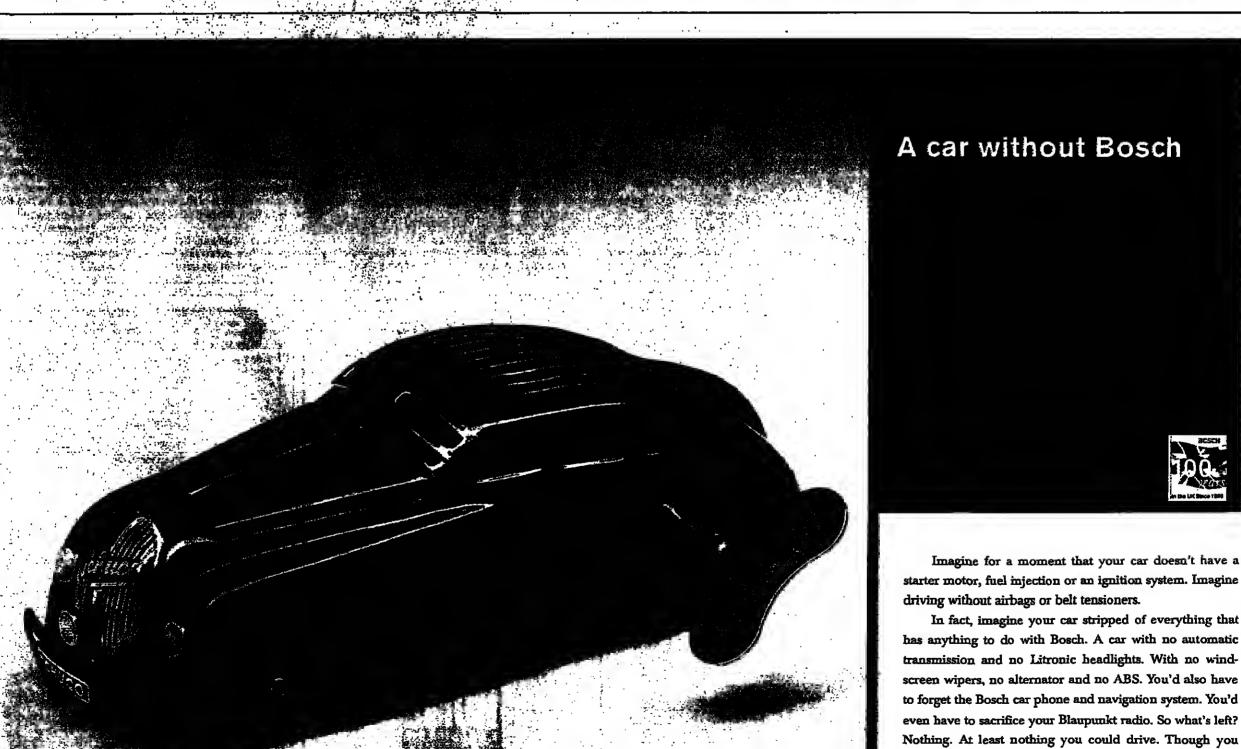
"And of course, if the solar panels get covered up, they would stop producing the necessary power for the various aids to navigation on board the vessels." He added: "It was not a problem

they were visited for refuelling and maintenance, and once the ship was alongside it would hose the vessel down." A bird-scaring system designed by

when they were diesel powered because

Sussex-based Scarecrow Bio-Acoustic Systems will be used to keep the birds away. The company has digitised the distress sounds of a number of birds including the herring gull, blackheaded gull, common gull and lapwing, and installed them in a loudspeaker unit that will by set up on the ships.

A system has already proved its worth at the British Embassy in Rome after it was invaded by starlings.



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#### White House wheels out big guns to defend beleaguered President

By Mary Dejevsky in Washington

THE WHITE HOUSE mountexercise yesterday in response to televised claims by a White House voluntary worker, Kathleen Willey, that President Bill Clinton had kissed and groped her when she went to ask him

for a job four years ago. Mr Clinton, clearly stung and concerned by the allegations, took time nut from a Washington school visit in repeat his sworn testimony that "nothing improper happened" between himself and Ms Willey. He told reporters that he had not seen the television interview - he was at the presidential re-

the weekend - but that he was mystified and disappointed" by the allegations. He said he had ed an all-out damage limitation a "very clear memory" of his the CBS weekly news pro-1993 meeting with Ms Willey, "and I told the truth".

Attacking on three fronts, White House officials repeated Mr Clinton's denial; they fielded the President's lawyer and communications director to call faith, and they laboured behind the scenes to remind White House press-corps members of Mr Clinton's versinn and their duty to objective reporting.

Minutes after Ms Willey's interview on Sunday evening, the White House had issued a brief statement, denying her allega- braced Ms Willey and kissed her

"Ms Willey's allegation is simply not true," the statement said. In the interview, broadcast in

gramme, 60 Minutes, Ms Willey had described hesitantly, but vividly, how Mr Clinton had clinched her in a hug that lasted "longer than I expected", kissed her on the lips, touched her breasts and put his hand on into question Ms Willey's good her genitals. The encounter took place on 29 November 1993, when Ms Willey, overwhelmed by financial difficulties, went to ask Mr Clinton for a paid job.

Mr Clinton does not deny that the meeting took place, but said in his sworn testimony that, while he might have emwas "nothing sexual about it".

One of the White House's chief weapons is Mr Clinton's lawyer in the case. Robert Bennett, who said that Mr Clinton was more angry than Mr Bennett had ever seen him.

Also fronting the President's defence was the White House director nf communications, Ann Lewis, Interviewed on the breakfast shows yesterday, she asked why, if the 1993 meeting had gone so wrong for Ms Willey, she had subsequently exchanged friendly letters with Mr Clinton and insistently volunteered to help with his 1996 re-election campaign. Ms Lewis said that Ms Willey had gone to see her personally to volunteer. She said:

treat at Camp David through tions on Mr Clinton's behalf. briefly on the forehead, there "Watching last night, I thought, the support of the mainstream gee, if I hadn't had my personal experience [with Ms Willey]. how would I feel about it?"

While mainstream US media went out of their way to present both sides of the story and not to suggest that Ms Willey's interview had the potential to topple the President, a prediction several analysts made when the revelations about the former White House trainee, Monica Lewinsky, broke two months ago, others were less circumspect.

Orrin Hatch, the Republican chairman of the Senate judiciary committee said: "If these allegations are true, that is the end nf this presidency."

Ms Willey's charges also appeared to have lost Mr Clinton

count: "This is heyond the idea of the likeable rogue ... and really on into ... sexual abuse." Meanwhile, the threat to Mr Clinton of a second White House trainee scandal seemed to have receded. The appearance nf a 24-year-old New York songwriter. Sherrie Densuk, who had been expected to testify in the Lewinsky investigation this

tional Organisation of Women.

Patricia Ireland, president nf NOW, said of Ms Willey's ac-

week, has been postponed. Ms Densuk was quoted as saying that she did not know Monica Lewinsky, and the White House said there was no record that she had ever been a traince there.

#### **US** army reassures women

THE UNITED STATES Defense Secretary, William Cohen, sought tn reassure women recruits in the armed forces yesterday in the wake nf recent sexual harassment scandals in the military, writes Mary Deievsky.

Mr Cohen announced that the number of female recruiters and training afficers was to be increased and selection procedures improved.

While his remarks were presented as a response to the recommendations of a congressional report, the timing indicated that they were also addressed to disconsolate servicewomen following the court martial verdict on Sergeant-Major Gene McKinney, the army's former top enlisted man, last week.

McKinney was acquitted last Friday on 18 counts of sexual harassment and found guilty on one charge of obstructing the course of justice, where there was recorded telephone evidence against him. Six women had testified against him, alleging improper advances and threats, but there was on thirdparty evidence for any of the accusations. The verdict has drawn fierce criticism from women's groups.

Mckinney was due to be sentenced yesterday. He faces up to five years in prison, a dishnnourable discharge and loss



Rock of ages: Olivia Newton-John (left), Stockard Channing and Didi Conn (right) celebrating the re-release of the film Grease on its 20th anniversary. The trio starred with John Travolta, who was unable to attend the Hollywood screening

#### Colombian rebels target American advisers

Colombian army its worst defeat in more than 30 years has warned that he would begin targeting US military advisers, accusing them of heading covert counter-

insurgency operations. Colombia (FARC) chief Fabian Ramirez military's anti-guerrilla strategy-killing Colombian rage will explode at any mo-

ready to strike at thousands of army reinforcementsbeing airlifted into Caqueta province.

Two weeks agn, 300 FARC guerrillas attacked the army's crack Third Mo-Revulutinnary Armed Firces of bile Brigade - a cornerstone of the bave US advisers so it is clear that

ing drugs in Colombia is a sophism. All the military and economic aid it is giving to the army is to fight the guerril-

las." Ramirez said. "Most (Colombian army) hattalions

COLOMBIA (Reuters) - A rebel com- said his fighters were in "combative 83 soldiers and capturing 43 others. "The ment and the abjective will be to defeat mander who recently handed the mood after their recent victory and were claim that the United States is combat- the Americans." Lust year, the line between the anti-drug and anti-guerrilla wars became blurred when White House drug czar Gen Barry McCaffrey authorized the use of US aid in comhat what

he dubbed "15,000 narco-guerrillas." FARC has always denied any links with drug cartels.

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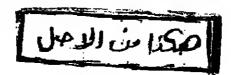
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Head start: A South Korean army cadet adjusting his cap before being commissioned at a graduation ceremony in Seoul yesterday. President Kim Dae-jung stressed the need for the army's political neutrality Photograph: Reuters

#### Mexican crime chills sunshine pensioners

in Cuerranavaca

MARK NIXON was not quite your typical American pensioner in Mexico. He enjoyed the climate in Cuernavaca, the "City of Eternal Spring", and the south-of-the-border value for his dollars. But he had been more successful than most of his fellow American pensioners or "snowbirds" who spend the winter of their years, or at least the American winters, in this

city just south of Mexico City. Mr Nixon, 60, had a reputation as "architect to the stars" in Beverly Hills, California, before moving south a decade ago. In Cuernavaca he turned a ruined bacienda into the renowned El Rancho Cuernavaca, a hotel that became backdrop to several Hollywood movies and photo shoots. The setting was often billed in magazines as "Under the

novel written by Malcolm Lowry m and around this town.

Last week, Mr Nixon was found dead in his home, with tens of stab wounds to his body. The same day, another American, Joseph Anisz Poston, 50, a retired dancer, was found dead in his home in the posh Lomas area of Mexico City. Mr Poston's testicles had been cut off. The killings sent shivers

through the tens of thousands of Americans who live in Mexico, either on short- or long-term business assignments, as full-time retirees, or as winter "snowbirds". Americans had hoped that the last killing of a compatriot, the businessman Peter Zarate, just before Christmas in Mexico City, had been a fluke, a simple robbery. He was shot dead after taking a taxi whose driver was in cahoots with a gang. Whatever the motives for

ject of feverish speculation - all three were American, all are dead and their compatriots, from students to pensioners, are jittery. The US embassy has upgraded its warnings to Americans not to take taxi cabs in the streets of Mexico City and to take extra security measures at home.

The general consensus here is that the latest Americans killed were oot picked out because of their nationality, but were merely three more victims of a crime wave that is plaguing this country, particularly the capital. There are an average of three murders a day in Mexico City and 82 reported rapes.

In the central belt around Mexico City, there were 700 highway robberies last year, often on tourist buses. One of the worst routes is the most potentially touristic - the relatively new motorway between Mexico City and

was on that highway that Mexico's latest scandal recently began. Police from the state of Morelos were allegedly dumping body of someone who had been tortured beside the highway when police from the neighbouring state of Guerrero spotted them. According to witnesses, the latter were upset not by the fact that fellow police were dumping a body but that they were dumping it on someone else's patch. "Our state is not a rubbish dump," one Guerrero officer reportedly said.

Asked to explain the victim's apparent torture marks, the Morelos police reportedly said we were trying to question him and he got over-excited. He was bumping into everything." The Morelos chief of police and prosecutor have both been charged with "torture and cover-np" and face long jail terms.

#### As crisis deepens, one man's pain is another man's pleasure

hen describing the practice of revelling in the misfortunes of others, English speakers have to rely on a German word schadenfreude. The Chinese have no such problem. Here in . Hong Kong we've been hearing a lot of people saying "hang djoy lok wor, "literally meaning "happy about other people's disas-

There is a great deal to be happy about these days in financially-challenged Hong Koog. Admittedly we have caught no more than the tail eod of the financial crisis sweeping across Asia but it has been sufficiently potent to give us something to chuckle

to hate are facing problems. It corrent financial crisis. The tallist them in no particular order ly of such "exclusives" is now in but they include Hone Kong's voracious landlords, stockbrokers and other money pushers, estate agents, banks, the managers of posh hotels and the purveyors of designer cloth-

ican advisers

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Just months ago this unsavoury assortment of the rich and mean were going about their business without a care in the world. Now things are very different

Property prices are diving through the floor, which prompted a friend of mine to ask for a rent reduction last October. The crisis was just taking hold then and his landlord replied that as he was the first to ask for a reduction, he would never be given one. The block of flats where this occurred is now half empty:

Out of sheer malice I have spent small amounts of time eering into the windows of totally deserted estate agents. I like to see the previously surly persons employed in these premises leap out of their seats and dash outside to see if they

can help me. Malice also takes me to make eoquiries about room rates at Hong Kong's notoriously overpriced hotels where the word "discount" was about as rare as a modest stockbroker. Ask for a discount these days and you will hear nothing resembling the 'D' word but are almost certain to be regaled with talk of packages. It amounts to the same thing but doesn't sound half as

As for stockbrokers, and so-called analysts, who could be spied spending the equivalent of some smaller nation's gross domestic product on an evening's entertainment, they are now more subdued, some are even out of work.

Only a hypocrite would pretend that it gives them no pleasure to observe these sorry souls chutching a half drunk bottle of some tepid Mexican beer



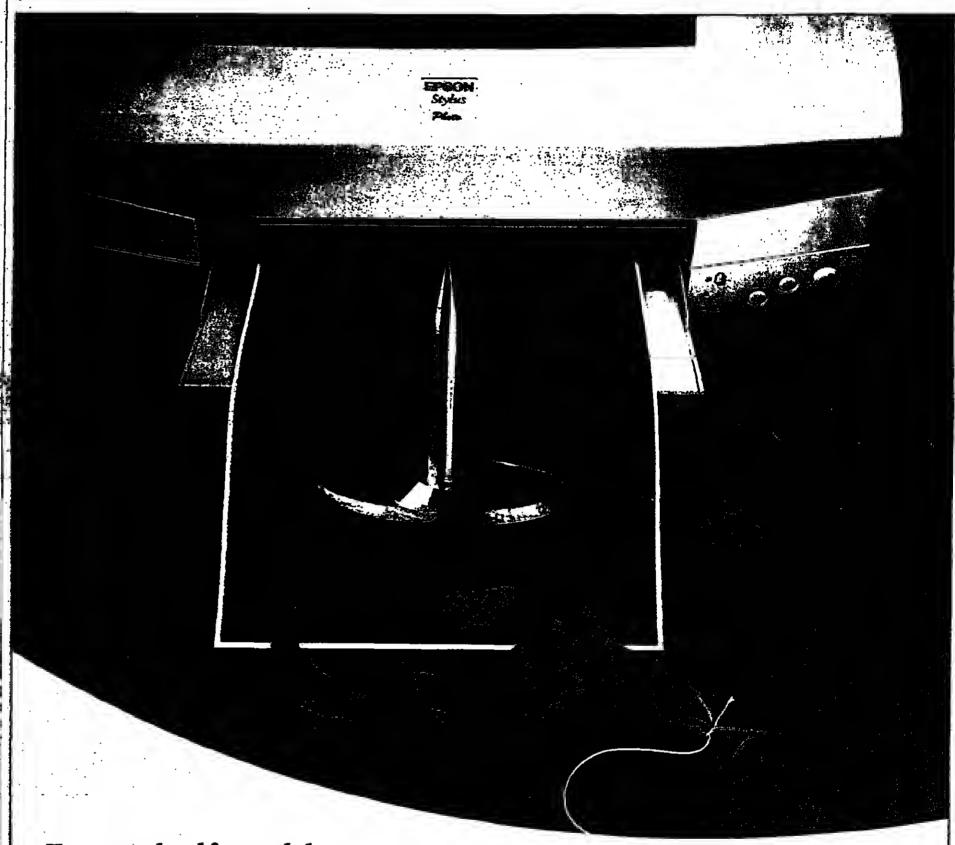


Defore reluctantly departing from the bailing of financial analysts I am keeping a careful count of the number of sixth people are claiming to have been the All the people you love - ediyout to have predicted in double figures. Rigorously excluded from this total is one of Hong Kong's most flamboyant fund managers, known as Dr Doom. His real name is Marc Faber and he has been predicting the collapse of Asian markets through two major booms when anyone following his advice would have forgone making a small fortune.

> Tong Kong is a hot contender for the title of Lhaving the world's worst climate. Most of the year it is extremely humid, and, more recently, heavily polluted. The worst of the humidity starts round about now. Unless precautions are taken clothes left in cupboards take on a lurid green appearance as they become covered in mould. However, determined to look on the brighter side, I can report that this is all good news for us cig-ar smokers. Only a fool would need to invest in a humidor in these circumstances.

he Hong Kong government and its more extreme supporters who are currently stuffing themselves with Peking duck while attending the monotonous sessions of the rubber-stamp National People's Congress in Peking, hate nothing more than the enormously popular radio talk-in shows, which score top ratings here. The trouble with these shows is that Mr and Mrs Joe Public demonstrate a less than reverential attitude towards Peking, Last week I was charting with Albert Cheng, the king of the talk shows, who revealed the secret of his survival. According to the scrupulously immodest Mr Cheng, Ting Chee hwa, the Chief Executive, needs him around so that when he is criticised for his autocratic ways he can smile and present his democratic credentials by saying "how can you say there's no freedom in Hong Kong with Albert Cheng

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#### Cook bows to Israelis on Har Homa visit

By Eric Silve n Jerusalem

ROBIN COOK blinked first last night and submitted to Israeli conditions for visiting the contentious Har Homa site in Arab East Jerusalem, where Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing government plans to build 6,000

After a protracted diplomatic poker game, the Foreign Secretary agreed to visit the wooded hillside between Jerusalem and Bethlehem accompanied by an Israeli official, who will put Israel's case for the project and for sovereign control of the disputed holy city.

Mr Cook had planned earlier to go to Har Homa with Paisal Husseini, a high ranking Palestinian official in Jerusalem. He will now meet Mr Husseini and other Palestiniao figures in an Arah university building in East Jerusalem.

24-hour visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories, had threatened to undermine British and European hopes of playing a wider role in the Middle East peace

A senior Israeli diplomat had warned Mr Cook that his visit to the settlement would precipitate a major crisis, even without Mr Husseini, "Without Israel," the official said, "they [the Europeans] cannot play a role. It takes two to tango."

Britain is curreotly the European Union's rotating president and Mr Cook is visiting Israel in the came of all 15 member states.

The nearest to an Israeli concessioo last oight was that the Foreign Secretary will



The Har Homa tour, which is part of a at least see Har Homa, which he insisted was his right. A British official in Jerusalem said the planned visit to Har Homa reflected European concern at the lack of progress in the peace process, which has been at a standstill sioce Israel annouoced the development of the settlement a year ago. The stalemate, he added, was compounded by Israel's expansion of West Bank settlemeots. As far as Europe is concerned, Har Homa is a settlement, although it is on land

Israel annexed after the 1967 war, Israel's objection was not so much to the visit as to the fact that it was planned in coordination with Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority. The Israelis only learned of inspection," a senior Israeli Foreign

Ministry official complained yesterday. "We don't inspect our friends. The Europeans may or may not recognise Israeli sovereignty, but as long as the issue is not resolved they should not come with prejudicial views." Mr Netanyahu's media adviser, David Bar-Illan, suggested it would be like an Israeli minister visiting Northern Ireland as a guest of Sinn Fein.

Israeli officials also complained that Mr Cook had decided to drop a visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial - a staple for visiting dignitaries - from his itinerary.

Israel says it would welcome a European cootribution to the Israeli-Palestinian process and to Israel's quest for a way to withdraw troops from southern Lebanon without endangering its northern border. But Israel insists the parties must negotiate their own terms. "We don't expect mediators to teach each side what to do," the senior diplomat said.

Israel fears a European peace formula would become the Palestinian base line. "Wheo people oegotiate," the official argued, "both sides have to meet each other half way. If the Europeans come with set ideas of what the outcome should be, the Palestinians cannot ask for less."

In Loodon, a spokesman for Tony Blair said the Prime Minister stood behind Mr Cook's decision to visit the disputed area.

Following talks in Jordan this morning. Mr Cook will fly to meetings with Mr Arafat in Gaza, with Palestinian officials in East Jerusalem, and Mr Netanyahu on the Israeli side of town. He will discuss the Lebanese issue with the Israeli Defence of it from the media. "It looked like a tour Minister, Yitzhak Mordechai, before continuing to Damascus and Beirut.



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#### Hindu nationalists celebrate poll victory – but for how long?

ratiya Janata Party (BJP) yesterday celebrated its victory in . India's general election with

and serpentine trumpets. . leader, Atal Behari Vajpayee, was finally able to show Presithat his party was close enough good chance of winning the inevitable vote of confidence. The new government will be sworn in on Thursday. President Narayanan has asked Mr Vajpayee to prove his parliamentary majority within 10 days.

While the BIP celebrated, its deadly rival, the Congress party, took a giant step into the unknown when it elected Sonia Gandhi to the chairmanship of its parliamentary party. This followed her election to the party's presidency oo Saturday, when her elderly predecessor,

Sitaram Kesri, was ejected in a will not be surprised if the govpalace coup. Mrs Gandhi is thus ernment falls within mooths. confirmed as Congress's ab-THE HINDU nationalist Bha- solute leader. Should Mr Vajpayee stumble and fall, she is now the official alternative.

After three prime ministers sweetmeats, garlands, drams in less than two years - Mr Vajpayee having been one of them, After a week of tense talks for less than a fortnight - Inand brinkmanship by a crucial dia is in dire need of stable govdent Narayanan written proof a balt. Economic growth is ex- controversial "re-evaluation"

But although stability was the BJP's campaign promise, it is unlikely to provide it. It will govern with the support of 2I allied partners and independents, all of whom will need to be appeased and humoured for the

government to stay affoat. Jayalalitha, the South Indian populist leader with an uncanny resemblance to Queen Victoria, who gave the BJP palpitations over the weekeod when she failed to send her promised letter of support, is a sign of trouble ahead. Observers

Mr Vajpayee and his colleagues have already had to put off implementing central BIP deas, such as building a giant Hindu temple in Ayodhya on the site of the mosque destroyed by a mob in 1992, and the enactment of a uniform civ-· il code, eliminating the discreally, the party's parliamentary ernment. The momentum of tionary treatment of religious economic reform, started six minorities in areas such as maryears ago, has almost ground to riage and divorce. The party's pected to slow from 7.5 per cent . of India's nuclear policy is like-

THE PERSON NAMED IN

to be long drawn out. The BJP's long-term dilemma is that it rose to prominence as the party with a panacea for Hindu grievances. But to attain power, to win over the Muslim vote, for example, it has had to abandoo almost everything that made it distinctive. What remains is an obligation to reward big-business supporters, by offering protection against foreign competitioo, and its support among small businesses by getting bureaucracy off their backs. The government will also talk tough with Pakistan on Kashmir.

#### South African official held over gun deal

SOUTH AFRICA'S safety and security minister, Sydney Mufamadi, flew to Maputo yesterday seeking answers to a question preoccupying the nation - what was a foreign affairs official, Robert McBride, up to when he was arrested in Mozambique with a pile of AK47 rifles and \$11,000 (£6,600) in his pocket? Mr McBride, 34, the Foreign

Ministry's Asia desk director, is in a Mozamhique jail after being arrested in the border village of Ressano Garcia a week ago while trying to escape back His involvement in what has

all the hallmarks of a gun-running operatioo is a huge diplomatic embairassment for South Africa. It has sparked a wave of conspiracy theories which have Mr McBride procuring arms for groups including the IRA and East Timorese rebels.

The arrest of any senior official in these circumstances would cause an outcry. In Mr McBride's case, reaction is acceptuated by his controversial past.

In 1986, Mr McBride, a coloured (mixed race) member. of the African National Congress's military wing, planted a bomb on a crowded beachfront in Durban. His target was the Magoo Bar, which he believed was frequented by soldiers and police and was, therefore, a legitimate military target. But

Mozambique arrests ANC man,

writes Mary Braid in Johannesburg

when the bomb - 100lb of explosives surrounded by bullets and shrapnel - exploded, it killed three women and scores of civilians. The liberation battle had ventured out of the townships to the doorsteps of South African whites.

Mr McBride was caught and sentenced to death. While waiting to be hanged, he married his lawyer. Paula McBride was not only white but the daughter of a director of Anglo American, South Africa's mightiest corporation

In 1992, Mr McBride was released in the political horsetrading between the National Party and the unbanned ANC. Whites who continued to regard him as a murderer were incensed again when, after the 1994 elections, he took up a job in the department of foreign

President Nelsoo Mandela's overnment is now distancing itself from Mr McBride. Yesterday Mr Mufamadi, accompanied by George Fivaz, the National Police Commissioner, and Billy Maseria, director gen-

eral of the SA Secret Service, made it clear that they were oot going to Mozambique to lobby oo Mr McBride's behalf.

South African intelligence agencies have dismissed suggestions that Mr McBride was on a secret mission to ferret out former ANC guerrillas thought to be responsible for a recent

spate of highway heists. Mozambican police have said they believe Mr McBride was involved in straightforward gun-running. Mrs McBride yesterday challenged portrayals of her husband as a perpetual revolutionary, secretly fighting for a foreign cause now the war at home was over. She admitted that Gerry Kelly, a leading Sinn Fein member, and his family had stayed at the McBride home in January but said links had been established because of Sinn Fein's interest in South Africa's peaceful transition to democracy. Newspaper reports of IRA guarunning. she insisted, were "laughable". Mr McBride had simply been on a fact-finding trip in preparation for a conference on gun and drug smuggling.

Mrs McBride said her husband was a man of principle, not a criminal. Those for whom he will forever be the Magoo Bar bomber are hoping that his detentioo is just the start of a lengthy - and long overdue -

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#### Power balance in French regions swings towards National Front

RARELY can an election have pro-duced such a jumple of profinished. Local pacts hold the key to control after muddled campaigns left all parties disappointed, reports John Lichfield in Paris duced such a jumble of unfinished sums, conflicting signals and moral gional poll in France was, quite simply, a mess. There were outright majorities in just two of the 21 regions in mainland France. In four regions the outcome was utterly opaque, dependant on the whims of

More menacingly, the far-right National Front was left with the potential balance of power in 19 of the

of the centre-right parties insisted again yesterday that they would make no deals with the National Front to form regional governments when the assemblies meet on Friday. In at least two regions, however, local teaders of the "traditional" right

are suspected of taking a more flex-

a precedent with unpredictable consequences for French politics in the ist-Communist-Green coalition did

per cent, its highest-ever national toit scored in parliamentary and presidential elections in 1997 and 1995. no-one won. Lionel Jospin's Social- On a very low turn-out (60 per minority regional governments on less well than expected, but may yet do better. It fell short of the the tarible view of Jean-Marie Le Pen's anti-ible view of Jean-Marie Le Pen's anti-claim 12 or 13 regional govern-get of 300 regional seats set by Mr RPR and the centre-right UDF dis-immigrant, anti-European and ments. The centre-right performed Le Pen and did not top the poll in this sed all possibility of deal-making, ed councillors "equally". Sunday's re-

cal pacts with the Front, it could set wash. The National Front scored 15.2 the Provence-riviera region.

NF leaders vesterday invited the tal, but only fractionally more than "traditional" right to discuss tactical or permanent alliances to keep the left-of-centre parties from forming cent) the Front would have hoped to . Friday covering more than half of France. Leaders of both the Gaullist

dilemmas. The result of Sunday's re- 21 regional assemblies. The leaders anti-American party. If they make lo- badly, but did not suffer a while- any region, though it came close in The former RPR minister, Eric Racult warned his own grass-roots: "If they cross the yellow line, the yellow line of the Republic, and of democracy, they will no longer be on our team." In Languedoc-Roussillon, however, the UDF regional president, Jacques Blanc, said there would be no "written" deals with the

mentary election last year, confirms the bankruptcy of the respectable right in France - out of ideas, out of energy, lacking convincing acw faces.

The Gnullist former Prime minister, Edouard Balladur, said it was time for the disparate parties to merge in one French conservative and liberal party. This is an old idea and a non-starter. Few of the existing party chiefs are ready to work under a single leader, even if one

My Lai dead

are honoured

Relatives and survivors of the 1968 My Lai massacre marked

the anniversary of the slaughter of 500 civilians by US soldiers. Wreaths were placed at a monument to the victims and

two US veterans who tried to hait the bloodbath urged that it never be forgotten. "Something terrible happened 30 years ago today," ex-helicopter pilot High Thompson said. This

month he was one of two men awarded the Soldier's Medal in Washington for their actions at - Reuters, My Lai, Vietnam

Veteran leads

Armenia poll

As Armenians voted for a pres-

ident yesterday, the Soviet-cra

Communist leader, Karen Demirchian, led in most opin-

ion polls, ahead of the Prime

Minister, Robert Kocharian,

the acting president, and former

prime minister Vazgen Manu-

kyan. A second round will be

needed in two weeks if no one

gains outright victory. Levon Ter

over concessions he offered

the Azeris to end a conflict over

the Nagorny Karabakh region.

Rare parrot

A kakapo chick hatched with

human help in New Zealand,

fuelling hopes for the species'

survival It brought to 57 the

known population of the kakapo, a fat, flightless parrot.

The egg was put it in an incu-

bator, where the chick struggled

to chip out at the weekend.

chips in

- Reuters, Yerevan

Petrosian resigned last month

#### Vatican paints a Holocaust whitewash

By Andrew Gumbel

AFTER 11 years of deliberation, the Roman Catholic church released its long-awaited pronouncement on the Holocaust vesterday as an "act of repentance" for the failings of the Catholic world to stand up to the massacre of 6 million Jews during the Second World War.

But the 14-page document, entitled We Remember: A Reflection On The Shoah, turned out to be a whitewash of the Vatican and the church hierarchies which barely acknowledged the church of Rome's long history of anti-Semitism.

The document, put together by the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations with Jews, vigorously defended Pius XII, the wartime pope much cridcised by historians for his refusal to make any public criticism of Nazi Germany. It suggested anti-Semitism was contrary to "the constant teaching of the church", and put the



Pope Pius XII: Failed to condemn Nazi regime

blame for any failings on "the sons and daughters of the church," not on its leaders.

There was immediate cridcism from several quarters, notably in Israel, where the director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Efraim Zuroff, accused the Vatican of trying to evade its historical responsibilities with a statement that fell far short of expectations. "The mountain has given birth to a mouse," he remarked.

The document argued that the church had nothing to do with the ideology of Nazism. "The Shoah was the work of a er satisfactorily explained, howthoroughly modern neo-pagan regime," it said. "Its anti-Semitism had its roots outside of Christianity and, in pursuing its aged to be such an outspoken aims, it did not hesitate to oppose the church and persecute her members also." no more than generalised com-

the institutionalised anti-Semitism of the church of Rome. stretching back to the Council of Nicea in 325, when Jews were deemed "abhorrent to the will of God", or such episodes as the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492 and the beatification of dozens of celebrated Jew-haters in the Middle Ages.

And there was no suggestion that any church official might have turned a blind eye to the horrors of Nazism, or even quietly condoned it. The document spoke only of the "many Catholic bishops, priests, reli-gious and laity" who helped to save Jewish lives.

It added: "Nevertheless .. the spiritual resistance and concrete action of other Christians was not that which might bave been expected from Christ's followers. We cannot know how many Christians in countries occupied or ruled by the Nazi powers ... were borrified at the disappearance of their Jewish oeighbours and yet were not strong enough to raise their voices in protest ... We deeply regret the errors and failures of those sons and daughters of the cburch."

was the document's attitude to Pius XIL lionised for his covert action "to save hundreds of thousands of Jewish lives". Many Jews, as well as liberals inside and outside the church, have never forgiven Pius for his failure to speak out in public, arguing that he had an pro-German bias (be was Papal nuncio to Germany during the First World War). He failed to prevent the deportation of Roman Jews, who bad lived under the direct protection of the Pope for centuries. His policy was diametrically opposed to that of his predecessor, Pius XI, who wrote an encyclical critical of the Nazis, "Mit brennender Sorge" in 1938, and was preparing an even stronger statement on his deathbed, which was hidden from public view until after Pius XII's death in 1958.

The Vatican has always argued that Pius had no choice that to oppose the Nazis would have spelled the destruction of the German church.It has nevever, why the Church under Pius XII protected Nazis on the run after the war; nor how Pius mancritic of the Soviet bloc in the 1950s, when the Nazis inspired



Ethnic Albanian women taking bread from Pristins to the Drenica region in a symbolic gesture against the Serb blockade of the tires and as a protest against the recent killings in the area of scores of ethnic Albanians, including children, by Serblan forces

#### Firefight ends bid to free Britons

By Phill Reeves in Moscow and Steve Crawshaw in London

THE borror of captivity was set hostages in Chechnya after a team of commandos ran into a lethal firefight oo their way to rescue them, according to Russian news reports last night.

The operation, launched in the early hours vesterday by Chechen special services, was called off after the hostage-takers threatened to kill the Britons, sources told the Interfax news agency. By then, one commando and one of the kidnappers had died in a burst of fighting, and several others

nationality of the hostages was unknown. Russian news ageocies all reported that the fire after setting off for the small hostages were the two missing Britons, Camilla Carr, 40, and Jon James, 37.

The failed mission came Maskhadov, the President of the chaotic Caucasus republic, returned home after a four-day trip to Britain in which he met Foreign Office officials to disworkers. The President bas repeatedly pledged to free the

The Foreign Office insisted bostages, who are among were in danger," he said. He that there was no evidence that scores caught up in an epidemic added he was confident of sethe Britons were the subject of of abductions that began in curing their release "in the near at length the importance of rethe rescue mission. A senior earnest after the Chechen war future". Meanwhile, in Grozny, leasing bostages for any Chechen official said that the ended in mid-1996. the capital, officials raided an progress on relations between A group from the Checken

anti-terrorist squad came under town of Urus-Martan, when hostages were held there. General Khunkarpasha Israpilov, only a day after Aslan chief of the Chechen anti-terrorist centre, told reporters that his team had been able to confirm the abductors not only hold the Britons, but also Chechens and one Ossetian. cuss the fate of the two aid. The rescue fighters "gave up the ists, realizing the hostages' lives may have been to blame.

apartment block and arrested. Britain and Chechnya. three people suspected of being involved in the hostage-takings. The couple were abductthey discovered that the ed by six masked gunmen last July after arriving in Grozny to

help children traumatised by the war with Moscow. Mr Maskhadov met Baroness Thatcher during his visit, and returned boasting that she had agreed to make a trip to Chechnya. That claim was denied by ber spokesman, who suggested plan for eliminating the terror- a misonderstanding in translation

During Mr Maskhadov's vis-

In this respect, the former prime minister was remarkably on-message: the Foreign Office followed up with the same message as Lady Thatch-

The families of the aid workers met Mr Maskhadov last week. Camilla Carr's sister, Alexandra Little, said yesterday: [Maskhadov] spoke from the heart. They know that they can't rebuild their country and have foreign investment while this is going on."

#### Shevardnadze hits at Moscow

President Eduard Shevardnadze criticised Russia for failing to extradite a man suspected of trying to kill bim. He was referring to Igor Giorgadze, Georgia's former security chief. who fled to Moscow after Georgian officials charged him with organising a 1995 bombing of Mr Shevardnadze's motorcade. He has faced two assassination attempts in Georgia over the past three years. -- AP, Tbilisi

#### Murder trial a bit of a drag

One of Greece's best-known folk musicians went on trial accused of murdering his daughter's married boyfriend. Akis Panou, 64, fired into the face of Sotiris Yalamas, 29, in August in the village of Lefki. Yalamas died instantly in front of Panou and his daughter, pregnant with Yatamas's child. Mr Panou said his daughter's relationship with a married man shamed the family. He was well known for the song "My life is just one cigarette that I don't like, but drag away at." - AP, Kavala

#### Tiananmen hard man elected to lead parliament

LI PENG, the man who imposed martial law on Peking during the spring 1989 prodemocracy demonstrations, was

yesterday elected head of China's Parliament, after an embarrassing 11 per cent of delegates failed to support his appointment. His election by the rubber-stamp National Party Congress (NPC) was no surprise - there was only one candidate. Although the vote for Li

the hardline Mr Li would be higher than it turned out. The assembly this week is putting in place the government century. Unlike in recent years. foreign journalists were not al-

Zemin's re-election as presi-

dent, he may well have been re-

lieved. In recent years, the NPC

for one vote last year dropped

thought the protest wite against

favourable than the resounding lowed to watch the voting in the for the time being - as the man age, but in reality because of a Great Hall of the People, but 98 per cent in favour of Jiang were provided with the results in a separate room. Under the constitution, Mr

has become more strident in Li had to step down as prime voicing dissatisfaction. Support minister after completing two full terms. He will retain his as low as 60 per cent. It was number two ranking in the Chinese leadership. Zhu Rongii. 69, will today be confirmed as China's new prime minister. In a separate election, Ho

Jintao, 55, was appointed Chithat will lead China into the 21st na's vice president. This signals Mr Hu as the heir apparent to Mr Jiang, and designates him -

to head the next generation of nift with Mr Jiang. Chinese leaders. Mr Hu made his political name as party secretary of Tibet, a job in which he was seen as a conservative

rather than a reformer. Analysts are weighing up how Mr Li's appointment may affect the political development of the NPC, which under the outgoing Qiao Shi, 73, had begun to take on a more robust defence of the "rule of law". Mr Qiao was unceremoniously ousted from his senior party positions last au-tumn, supposedly because of his

Mr Li would not normally be thought of as the right man to further the development of China's parliamentary system, though he will need to boost the NPC if it is to act as a powerbase for him. But, as a man who has built his career on unquestioning belief in the absolute power of the Communist Party, his vision of how the NPC should evolve is unlikely to give cause for hope to those who want to see political reform in

There was barely a nod to ments about Christian values. | Peng, 69, was much less

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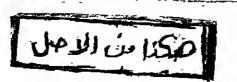
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## A very private obsession (10) Sarah Speir, who has suffered secretly from a compulsive disorder, explains now she was a fair and the secret of the secret o

how she was able to unburden herself

of things just now. Confusion silence as he calmly told me he'd reigns triumphant. Things had met someone and wanted to never really been going well and end the relationship. I put down the farewell party for my sister seemed to top it all off.

hygiene in that I wash my hands of these ooes. a lot. Most of the time I'm okay, but something triggered me off and no amount of ritualised routine was going 10 convince me l was sterile.

My family know about my about it, but they were busy to fresheo up. greeting guests while I hid upcome and find me. So it was at- hugging the toilet. tentinn-sceking, but sometimes you need sympathy showered oo you. My mum did come looking, but oever frund me. Realising it was a lost cause and that there were now too many guests drink?" who didn't know about my wee problem, I did a flit and went to see Sall, my best friend,

She breezily asked why I was stopping her tidying spree when my voice laltered on reply. Contiouing to wring my hands I explained that I couldn't get compass my quaking staoce. I hated myself for crying, hut also knew that Sally was the best person to console me. True to Men paper towel to dry my eyes.

We went hack to my place, and made polite conversation with my parents' friends while Sally enquired as to my boyfriend's whereahouts. He was late as usual and to be hooest I was glad as I was finding the relationship difficult.

You see, I'd had this hygiene problem since I was about 13 and never thought I would find anyooe who would understand lationship. When I met my return from the bathroom. Amazingly we got through it and together we took on the illness for what it was. But now I was confused over my feeliogs for my boyfriend, feeling that perhaps I loved him as a friend rather than a boyfrieod. I was also trying to silence a niggling thought: Was I staying with him let," I said. because I believed that there couldn't be anyone else who would understand my worries? Throughout my illness, the focus of my worries revolved around out wanting to hurt anyone. That's why I washed my hands - so I wouldn't pass some borrendous unknown discase tu peuple.

so relieved he was all right. Then I asked what was keeping him. jersey just like you did tonight.

I DON'T know what to make My relief turned into shocked the phone and headed back upstairs to my earlier hideout. For I'd had a hard time getting the second time that day I my hands clean before the par- broke into tears, surprising myty started. I have a problem with self at the pain that flowed out

Meanwhile, the party appeared to be in full swing, with my mother's dulcet tones slaughtering "California Dreaming". Try as I might I couldn't hide in there for ever, problem and are really good so I headed for the bathroom

"Oh, hi, I feel sick," he declared in his usual monoto-

"How much have you had to

"Mind if I fresheo up?" "No, go ahead."

cheeks were red hut my eyes were okay. I ran the water. My palms welcomed the moisture. You would never have guessed them clean and instinctively my hands were only 20 years old hrought my shoulders in to eo - they looked at least 60, gnarled and wrinkled as if I had been a fisherman in a past life.

I'd unconsciously begun the routine I follow wheo washing form she appeared with a Mr my hands. I find myself doing that sometimes, mostly after a particularly disturbing dream involving some hygiene epic. That's why I'm jokingly referred to as Lady Macbeth in my family. I didn't know how long Dave had been watching me for or in fact how long it had been since I came in - tonight was all mud-

died up. Time meant nothing. Turning off the tap, I wiped my hands on my jumper. Force of habit, after a bad spell on the the constraints it made on a requestion of the cleanliness of towels. I knelt down beside boyfriend I didn't think he Dave and playfully tugged his would understand either and shirt. "Hey wet hands, nobody solutely necessary. The time I sat down, happy to find my came after a particularly full-oo niche. I'd always felt okay petting session when I failed to around him - there was something about his laid-back atti-

> I filled a beaker of water for him, "At least you got to the toi-

Then he said: "I remember another time. The door was ajar and the tap was running. I went to turn it off when I heard crying. I saw you with soap all over your hands and about half way up your arms. I went back to the hall and waited to see if you were all right only you took ages Wheo the phone rang I was and when you did come out you

Pushing opeo the door I

stairs waiting for someone to encountered Dave piteously "Oh sorry."

nous tone.

"Don't know."

I studied my reflection. My

decided not to tell him until ab- ever teach you to use a towel?" tude to life that put me at ease.

The Swinging Sixties floated though the open window. We'd reached Gerry and the Pacemakers wheo Dave

retched.

"Sorry." were drying your hands on your



An affliction of the mind: Sarah Speir, who has felt compelled to wash excessively for seven years

Photograph: Colin McPherson

bing your back as if to say "are you okay", all the time rubbing the soap off. It was then that I realised that Sally knew something I didn't and that you weren't happy."

I looked down at my feet. That was the most I'd ever heard Dave say at one time and the topic was the worst he could have chosen. Both of us were clearly emharrassed. We could have been love-struck teenagers oo a first date awaiting the oext move.

"I never realised. That was two years ago. Why haven't you said anything?"

"Say what? Why do you cry wheo you wash your hands then not use a towel? I figured you didn't want anyone to know, well, apart from Sally."

My ring was jammed on my

ever told a few people of my problem and there was so much to consider when you did let them in. Would they treat you differently, act embarrassed around you or even tell others? I couldn't believe he'd seeo me that night. Usually I'm good at hiding it. It's a recognised fact that people with my coodition - obsessive compulsive disorder - are really good at keeping

their illness from others. A buttoo oo my cuff had come loose and was straining to be free from its threaded leash. "They think they're dirty all the time," I said. The hutton flew off, landing between us, the cheese in the mousetrap. "Found out my secret then?" I

let my fringe hide my eyes. For the third time that night. I was reduced to tears. Music knuckle now - oo amount of from the party enforced the

Sally came in and started rub- twisting was helping. I'd only depth of sadness and I wept on the towel? You're begging in my head. Least of all me. words I'd stored only in the recess of my twisted mind.

"Dave, it's just the most horrible thing. I hate it you

> Continuing to wring my hands, l explained that I couldn't get them clean

know. Every day. From the moment I get up. Putting my undies on, what if I brushed past there when I was putting them on. I must he dirty - wash my hands. Dry them. What's that

yourself to accept that the brown patch is just dried blood from Brian or dad's razor cut, but that fucking stupid bit won't accept it. It must be shite. Why would that be on the towel well you do dry yourself when you get out the bath and the

always something to contradict your sane half. "I hate it, just hate it. I wish, you know, it's just fucked up so much for me. I've missed my teenage years. I'm 20 but I've only experienced life up to about 14. It's so hard going out as you're sure you're still dirty.

shower don't you? There's

always another bloody answer,

Terrified you're going to start some epidemic. "Why couldn't I have something medicine could aid, per-

"Do you know what the worst thing is? All I've ever wanted is children. The maternal part of me is crying out to he released. But how is that going to happen, Dave, when any kind of genital secretion seeds me to the shower for hours?" My despair was overwhelming.

Dave shuffled over to me. An arm was tentatively placed around my shoulder; a cautious hand gently tugged my head into his chest. For someone who had hated contact of any kind, even from family, he knew he was needed. His flannel shirt soaked up my tears and we sat there together, weary souls listening to Lennon and Mc-Cartney drifting from helow.

haps even cure? Nobody's got The names of the writer's friends a frigging chue what's going on have been changed.

in As Good As it Gets, which opened in Britain last week. Jack Nicholson portrays a man obsessed with deanliness who fears contact with strangers because of the germs they may be carrying. When the movie reaches Glasgow, Sarah Speir will be in the audience, partly because she is a film buff, and partly because she knows what an obsession with hygiene feels like from the inside.

Since she was I3 she has had a fear of dire and germs which has driven her to wash her hands dozens, sometimes hundreds, of times a day.

Her parents first became aware of her compulsion when she stopped going out with her friends. After much coaking, she explained that going into town meant shopping which meant handing over cash. Cash was "dirty" and she feared that she would spread germs and cause infections for which she would be to blame.

The strain on the family has heen enormous. Sarah speaks warmly of her parents' support and they pay tribute to her bravery, but both admowledge that her condition has dominated family life. "When she is down we are all down," her father says.

Sarah did well at school and got a place at university to study speech therapy, but she dropped out after 18 months, unable to take the strain, She is now working as a legal secretary in Edinburgh and hopes to go back to university.

Nobody knows how many sufferers there are from obsessive compulsive disorder because many keep their condition hidden. Estimates vary from one in 100 to one in 1,000. Its cause is not understood, although there is thought to be a scrong genetic factor, but it is one of the most readily treatable conditions with behaviour therapy.

Sarah, who has been on anti-depressants for most of her adolescence, has been receiving therapy for the past four months, after years in which she refused help. It involves exercises in aversion therapy being required to go out to the shops without washing her hands - tasks she finds very difficult but which, over time, should break down her compulsion. "I have minor upsets every now and then. But I am getting better," she says.

Jeremy Laurance

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#### Be brave, and put doctors to the test



#### DR PHIL HAMMOND

"THE TROUBLE with you is that you're not one of us any more - you're one of them." As criticism goes, I've had worse. "Smug self-satisfied medical tosser" (Anon, Edinburgh Festival Times) and "unimpressive hiceps... makes you yearn to administer a lethal injection" (Cristica Odoce, Daily Telegraph) are my favourites. But when it comes from someooc you respect it does tend to hit home. The critic in question is a GP who was commenting oo a Trust Me, I'm a Doctor feature exposing the fact that amniocentesis-the withdrawal through a needle of fluid surrounding an embryo for screening tests - is still being done in some ceotres in the UK without continuous ultrasound guidance. Without ultrasound you can never be sure where the ocedle will cod up and it doesn't take a genius to figure out what might happeo if it hits the placenta or baby,

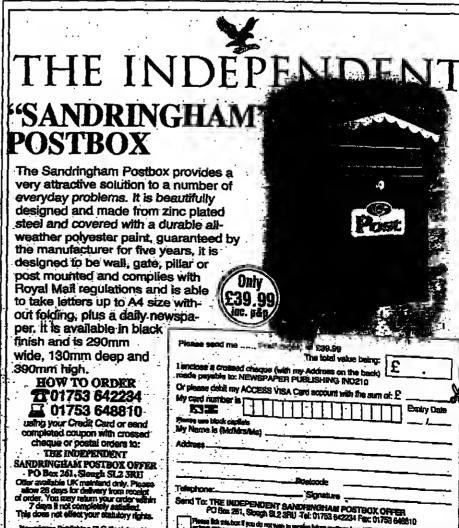
"I'm not saying it doesn't happen," said Dr X (who wishcs to remain that way) "but I'm just oot sure whether any good will come of exposing it. You know as well as I do that the NHS is run on a shoestring budget and a consequence of that is the very patchy quality of the service. Whatever operation or procedure you care to name, some places do it well and some places do it badly. It's always been that way and it'll remain so without a substantial input of resources into medical training and manpower. The only thing that's changed is that programmes like yours are making the public think that instead of being thankful for whatever the NHS gives them. they have a right to expect that whoever they see is up to date and competent. It's a nice sectiment hut a million miles away from reality. So all you're doing is increasing public expectation beyond what the service can deliver and making it even lougher for doctors."

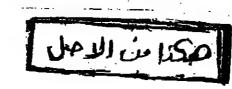
I was about to launch into a vigorous defence when I spotted another old colleague. Well not that old actually - she'd beeo an obstetric registrar when I was a senior house officer - hut she's finally become a consultant and she looked bloody ancient. She was and still is a brilliant obstetrician, so why was she finding it so tough? "Litigation. I've got an in-tray this hig with complaints going back 10 years. The sad thing is that I know that in nearly every case nothing negligent happened. On one occasion, a junior doctor made a mistake but even then she was doing her best given the conditions and I don't think it affected the outcome. But people expect you to get it right first time, every time and they think medical science has miraculous solutions to everything. I love the work but if anything drives me away

from it, it'll be the lawyers." I speot a day or so feeling

sorry for obstetricians until Sacha Baveystock, the series producer on Trust Me, told me of a phone call she'd received from a woman who'd had a "hlind" amnioceotesis dooe in Mnnchester. The obstetrician didn't even speak to her, stuck the ocedle in three times without ultrasound guidance, drew hlood on each occasion, gave up and walked out. Not only does It risk causing miscarriage, hut the baby may survive with brain damage. Oxford pathologist Wainey Squire has studied the brains of a number of (now deceased) children with severe brain injury at birth who'd had amniocentesis and can date the time of the injury to the time of the procedure. In addition, the babies had puncture marks in their skulls. The tragedy is that continuous ultrasound guidance has been available for 10 years and when used properly, the chances of hitting the baby during amnioceotesis are very much reduced. The Royal College of Obstetricians insists continuous monitoring must be used but some obstetricians either don't bother or a risky business."

haveo't been trained. Time to stop feeling sorry for doctors. I have mixed emotions and divided loyalties about medicine every time we film Trust Me. Doctors are under enough pressure without the glare of the media but the General Medical Council and Royal Colleges alone just don't seem to have the teeth to sort out the problems of incompetence. For all the patchy quality procedures we've exposed (breast cancer surgery, cleft lip and palate repair, hip replacements and now amnio) the doctors who are doing it well always give patients the same advice. Ask the person who's doing it how Often they do it, whether they're following established guidelines and what results they get: It's a sad reflection on the state of medical training if patients have to check that their doctor is doing the job properly. and I've never yet met a patient who's had the balls to do it. But most doctors are competent and should not be threatened by the request, and it's currently your best chance of avoiding a bodger. As a surgeon once said to me "blind trust in anyone is





## SSION-Tudors

## heads

The history of Henry VIII and his heirs, like that of the Windsors, was a soap opera with the quality of Greek myth. And we can't get enough of it. By Jack O'Sullivan

of chaps in doublet and hose, stiff ruff necks and hig floppy head gear finally sank with the Spanish Armada. But who knows these days? The Tudors are suddenly hip and the fashion folk are on the case. Vivienne Westwood has taken to dressing up as Elizabeth I and Isabella Blow, self-styled muse of the Cool Britannia designers, is urging her protégés, Philip-Treacy and Alexander Mc-Queen, to think half-timbered.

Meanwhile, in political circles, the talk is oh so Tudor, of Britain as once again a buccaneering, enterprising state, unencumbered by empire, a country of Francis Drakes, a nation casting aside stuffy old ways in favour of storming off confidently into modernity.

And, of course, the royal parallels are clear enough. The dilemmas of Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles would have been well understood io Henry VIII's day, when a king had occasionally to dump a wife or two. The House of Tudor, like the Windsors, "provided an extraordinary supply of family dramas, soap opwhich had the quality of Greek myth".

The speaker is David three-part Channel 4 series on . the life of Heary began on Sunday. In making his documentary, Dr Starkey apparently has a problem. There is not much visual material, apart from a few Holbeins, to work from. But that does oot bother him. Each time some fresh twist in the Tudor drama unfolds, he need only zoom in on the present royal family or to-

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Jan 1997

Fremy Lauren

YOU might think that the idea day's politicians to find an ilhistory repeating itself. "What has happened in recent years is exactly the same," says Starker, "except that Diama and Sarah sad itor have their heads cont off."
He is not alone. Others has

cinated by the Tudors include the makers of a forthcoming film focusing on the love life of Elizabeth I which has sparked a debate on whether she was in fact a virgin; Maria Perry, the actress and historian, who has published a book on the tumultuous lives of Henry's sisters (one married thrice after two divorces) and Peter Ackroyd, whose new work explores the rise and fall of Henry's righthand man, Thomas More. Lord Irvine behaves with the arrogance and extravagance that led to the demise of Henry's Lord . Chancellor, Thomas Wolsey. And, of course, a scene from Elizabeth's court, in the style of Black Adder II (corrently being repeated) is being used in an advert for Hooks.

cinated it was after all, something of a golden age which saw the flowering of the English lau-guage. Charles Laughton es-Starkey, LSE historian, whose tablished his career on the much attention was paid to vistrength of his Oscar-winning. sual image," says Maria Perry. performance in the 1994 movie, The Private Life of Henry VIII. Glenda Jackson may end up as Mayor of London on the basis flowed with claret in a massive of her stern performance as Elizabeth in the Seventies BBC impress Francis I of France dramatisation of her reign.

It is tempting to point out,

Starkey acknowledges that the era has had near universal appeal. "Henry VIII," he says, "has genuinely mythic status.



He has become the English Bluebeard. The best stories about the Tudors call for and can stand endless repetition."

But the period seems to .. today. "Partly it is because it wasan age of great portraiture and pageantry, when, like today, so She recalls a lavish event in 1520, known as the Field of the Cloth of Gold, when fountains display of wealth designed to when he met Henry VIII to talk peace. It was the type of event, branding England as rich and powerful, of which Peter Man-

delson would have been proud.

Starkey also sees the Tudor period as offering vital insights into what post-imperial Britain should aspire to. "We are now," he says, "in exactly the same pohave a particular resonance sition as in Henry's day. We are top of the European second division. Then Henry created the Eurosceptic nation by cutting England off from the European the Church of England. He es-

> came a time of great exploration throughout the world. "Blair threatens to destroy the changes Henry made in return for a future in Europe that nobody understands. He is going against the grain of 500

tablished a sense that the na-

tion was God's vehicle on earth.

And the Elizabethan period be-

There is, in short, an intel-

lectual battle going over the Tidor legacy, with Blair's people claiming to be the true believers. Mark Leonard, whose work for Demos on rehranding Britain has been a key influence on the Government, argues that the Tudor period demoo-Catholic church and creating strated qualities of nationhood which the present government is now pursuing.

There was an openness to the world. In those days foreigners regarded this country as one of expressive, emotional people, not of stiff upper lipped types. We started to rediscover this character after Diana's death and over Louise Woodward. Fashion was over the

top and in your face, quite rescount of British fashion today. It was, like now, a very creative period - the Tudors created the Church of England, the Navy. the monarchy as we came to James's Pulace, Charles's Lonknow it and what came to be regarded as classical British in-

stitutions."

Leonard, anthor of Britain Starkey's image of Henry as founder of the Eurosceptics. "His marriages were designed to create alliances with European countries. He led an international lifestyle. The heroes nf the period such as Shakespeare were internationally minded. And Henry could speak several languages. He was a quintessential European."

#### The subjects still object to Queen Camilla

to last July. Photographers outside Highgrove, the private residence of Prince Charles and the venue for a party celebrat-ing the 50th hirthday of Camil-In Parker Bowles, are surprised in find special facilities have been laid on. There's to be none of the usual scrummaging. "If you want to see the main shot. boys, just stay here," the helpful police inspector tells them. It was almost unheard of.

They are more surprises when the main shot approaches, in the farm of a Ford Mondeo carrying Mrs Parker Bowles, in a figure-hugging gown. The car slows down to make sure the snappers get a good long look. Around her neck is a diamond and pearl necklace and on her lips is the smile of a woman who senses her time may finally have come.

How long ago it all seems now. At the time, speculation on the subject of a possible marriage between Charles and Camilla was rife. Newspaper polls suggested that public opinion was thawing towards a woman who for some time had played the wicked witch apposite Princess Diana's good fairy

Later in the summer, the pair were due to go on holiday together; then in September would come their first public outing. This was to be at a £100a-head charily bash on behalf of the National Osteoporosis Society organised by Mrs Parker Bowles. Her mother died of the disease and she is the society's patron. Not exactly competition for the Queen nf Hearts, perhaps, but undoubtedly another significant step on the road to acceptance.

It wasn't to be, of course. In a screech of tyres in a Paris underpass, Camilla was once more consigned to the shadows. But in recent weeks, Mrs

Parker Bowles has found herself back in the headlines. Earlier this month, it was revealed that she has been staying at St. don residence. Now comes the revelation that she had been Charles's guest at a weekend party at Sandringham. Ac-- Renewing Our Identity, rejects cording to one source, the couple will soon be seen logether in public, probably at a charity function. But she will not bost any public events on behalf of the National Osteoporosis Society as previously planned.

The most significant date in the resumed rehabilitation of Mrs Parker Bowles will be 14 November, Charles's 50th hirthday, when it is likely that

TIME to cast our minds back a party will be held at Windsor Castle. Undoubtedly Charles would wish to have Camilla on his arm, and he will also want his two sons in attendance. William and Harry have not met Camilla since they were small.

So far, all seems to be going well. There was no outpouring of moral outrage at the news that Camilla had been staying at St James's Palace and newspaper polls show that up to 80 per cent of the public feel Charles should be "forgiven" for his treatment of Diana. So who should take the praise for this public relations success?

Step forward, Peter Mandelson. The fact that he was among the 25 VIP guests at Sandringham was hardly a surprise.



Parker Bowles and the Prince of Wales



Mr Mandelson has subsequently become close to the couple and has hinched with them at Highgrove. Mr Mandelson has also played a major role influencing the discussions by the Way Ahead group - the Royal Family's own think tank - about revolutionising the monarchy.

Whether this will also include the idea of Camilla as Queen Consort is open to debate. The Church has already been softened up regarding a possible marriage. The British people are the problem. It may be a long time before the thousands who mourned Princess Diana are prepared to accept

Tim Hulse

#### walked on the dancefloor and I was treated like the messiah'

#### REVELATIONS: PETE TONG

The time: February 1998 The place: Derby The man: Pete Tong - Dj

"I'VE ONLY just been coming to terms with the fact that I'm famous. Even though I've been started at Radio I as a journalist/guest DJ in 1979 so I've transcended generations of clubbers. Up till recently, being on the radio might have made you notorious, hul never famous. The DJ as a superstar has been very strange for me, I have was the only dance DJ. The only dance into a club and people go wild. I think: 'it's only me, all I've got is a box of recordsl'

personality really hit me last month at a club in Derby; people outside London and the South-east are a little less conical. Although I'd worked at-Progress in Derby in the past, . I don't go out on the road very ... on the radio all my adult life. I much - especially oow that I . have a family. So getting me back to places is very difficult, but this year I've returned to

people who earlier in my career supported me big time?
When I was finelly great win Radio 1 show, back in 1994 I the money and being book into the chicken and chips on Wednesday nights - like The intensity of the cult of Bruno Brookeses and Peter



Powells officers gone by. Although I was really well known, credible and played at all the right places in the South-east. everywhere else, being a Radio 1 DJ, I was not the coolest person. So I'd phoned Derby and actually begged for a gig.

I hadn't seen the owner of Progress for seven years. He got me to meet him in the town centre because the dub had moved to a pedestrian walkway and he needed to guide me in. He was amazed by the response: Tve never seen crowds

like it. Last time you played for me, you couldn't even mix. I don't believe it. I've turned 2,000 people away tonight. It's gonna clear me out, because you're charging a fortune, but I don't mind. Just tell me what you've done.' The truth was that I don't know!

I entered through the back door of his club, word went through like wildfire, there was an incredible buzz. I walked on the dance floor and I was treated like the messiahl I'm not a pop star and I don't want to be one but that's all I can liken it to. The crowd parted and they wanted to stroke me, shake my hand, kiss me - and it was just as much the boys as the girls. It was stupid and over the top but they were beautiful people and I was really pleased. Even

before I played my first record Half of me thinks this a young there was a massive cheer and everybody ran to the front. It's a funny job - all I'm do-

ing is playing somebody else's records! The adulation is quite between 18 and 25, I always uncomfortable, although I'm proud of my ability to entertain, I feel I should be doing more like juggling. Also in the last six months,

because my mix albums have been phenomenally successfully, selling 700,000 copies, which is more than anything else in my genre has ever sold, I've been asking what I should do with myself. All these doors are being opened that I haven't gone knocking on. Perhaps it's a flaw in my character that I'm not more ambitious to do higger and better things.

I'm both excited and scared.

person's business and I'm an old bastard, 37, much older than the average age of my club-going audience, who are somewhere wanted to go out at the top and do something sensible instead. Maybe I should grow up. Yet the other side says nobody has ever

got old being a club DJ before - there's no red card yet and I'm not being ordered off stage. At the moment it's too exciting and personally challenging to quit. I'm the equivalent of Alan Shearer in the DJ world - so the money is good too!

My show has grown immensely in popularity, without sounding ton conceited, it has attracted some cultural significance for young people because so many live for the weekend.

With the new era of Birtism I've been selling the BBC programmes, so I'm behind getting a lot of my so-called competitors, like Judge Jules and Tim Westwood, on to Radio I.

I've gone from underground to massively overground and now attend John Birt's cocktail parties. I'm quite interested in television next, with the expansion of digital, cable and satellite, there are lots of opportunities. Nobody with my knowledge has been given the challenge of putting club culture on to the box. Nothing has worked before because it's always been done by TV people who know nothing about club-

Pete Tong is on Radio 1 - Friday nights between 6pm and 9pm. Interview by Andrew G Marshall

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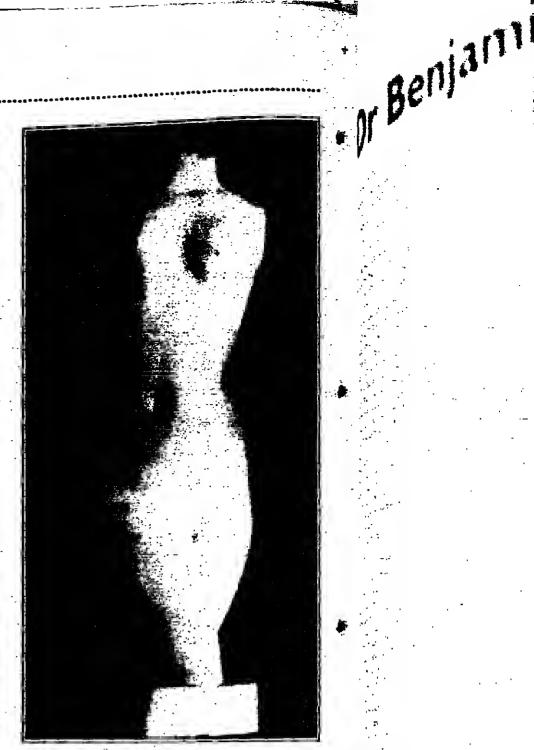
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tion: Henri Gaudier-Brzeska's Torso I, 1913, Henry Moore's Woman with Upraised Arms, 1924-25, Barbara Hepworth's Torso, 1928 and Frank Dobson's Torso, 1933

#### Erotic fantasy from the heart of the stones

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31 October 1998

**CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY** WITH GUINNESS, PROUD SPONSOR OF JONGLEURS **COMEDY CLUBS** 

What goes round comes round, says Tom Lubbock. And in sculpture, what was first put forward in jest soon became the sensual language of the modernists

MODERN art repeats itself. the first time as a joke, the second time in deadly carnest or it often seems that way. So begin in incredulous humour, with someone saying: and I'll tell you the next thing they'll do, these artists, if they go on like this, they'll ... Then, later, the preposterous fantasy

Abstraction and actioopainting were both anticipated (by cartoonists and others) years before the real things arrived. And in 1931, four decades ahead of Richard Long, the sculptor Jacob much talk now of material that I can foresee, as a logical conclusion, an exhibition of stones."

But the talk that Epstein was reacting to, he'd been involved with himself. "Truth to materials" was a big slogan of English modernist sculpture meaning, if a sculpture is made of stooe, it should respect this fact and not attempt to simulate flesh. "Direct carving" was another: sculptors should be physically involved with their material, and not (as Rodin had done) make models in clay and get craftsmen to remake them in marble. It was a movement that emphasised its hands-on honesty, and Eostein was one of its pioneers. He had himself affirmed sculpture's identity with its natural materials, declaring: "I want to carve

Carving Mountains is the name of the exhibition now showing at Kettle's Yard in Cambridge, devoted to English stone sculpture from 1907-37. It includes work from the first generation of carvers, Epstein, Gaudier-Brzeska and Eric Gill, and from the second, Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth and her two husbands, John Skeaping and Ben

Nicholson. The sculptures here aren't themselves mountainnus. They're small works, some of them tiny. But the survey is very well chosen, and conveys the sheer adventure of getting the chisel nut and gerting stuck in - taking as one's example not the classical tradition with its straining limbs and heaving muscles, but more primitive and archaic artefacts, self-contained and static figures whose elemental shapes didn't disguise the blocks of stone they were cut

A certain purity was the hallmark of this work, and the propaganda encourages us to see if as a back-to-basics and rather high-minded enterprise. But looking at Epstein's Female Figure in flenite or Gaudier's The Imp, we should recognise too what curious creations they often are - as indeed they appeared to cootemporaries (and not only ages are at first very hard to those who thought them work out, which is just as it

hideous). Carving stones so that they look like stones bring its own particular psycholog-

The sculptors doo't abandon the human body, but the bodies they carve tend to be stout and sturdy, or to coalesce into compact, streamlined, almost shrink-wrapped forms. Surface detail is simplified. There are no extruding limbs. These are ideal bodies, and the ideal they pursue, the thing they really want to be, is a beautiful hump-not just back to basics, but back to the embryo, back to the egg. The Female Figure is a paradoxical Epstein, said: "There is so creature. Its belly is pregnant, but its head is clearly foetal. The Imp, meanwhile, is part

baby, part phallus. Purisur coexists here with

should be - not being able to tell the difference between things is the idea.

It wasn't all primal stuff. What's interesting about the work of Dobson, for instance, is how he can use these devices to do something more socialised and urban. His female Torso (armless, headless and stopping above the knee) is his . masterpiece, I think, and it's an extraordinary formal construction, full of surprises at every turn. As you move around it, the body continually swells and tautens in ways you least expect. At the same time, it's like a shop window mannequin, with a slim. "flapper" bust, breaking into a pair of mighty thighs.

But Epstein's joke-prediction of "an exhibition of stones" was already coming half-true

They ask to fingers and palms run all over them. It would be crude to call them sex-toys; but their touchy-feely

when he made it, in the work croticism, and of a very practical kind. In terms of the opof Moore and Hepworth. It position of "carving-good, wasn't the mountain that was modelling bad" the works the model, but the pebble nn swing both ways. As forms, the beach. Hepworth's Mother they're tense, solid and resisand Child of 1934 shows how far tant. But as surfaces, the senthis can go. A small stone lodges in the lap of a larger one. sation they project is of a hand holding, smoothing, both barely humanoid. There's rounding, moulding them. something peculiar about carying stones so that they perfect-They ask to be handled, to have fingers and palms run all assume the smooth over them (of course that isn't knobbliness of a sea-washed allowed). It would be a bit pebble - making something crude to call them sex-toys, but look as though it's actually their touchy-feely incitements been found. You do almost be-

incitements are very strong

This is reflected in the subject matter. Formal compactness favours certain kinds of behaviour - principally hugging, clustering, coupling and bonding. In a group piece like Frank Dobson's The Man-Child (authentic ethnic title!), figures and limbs are hardly separate from each other, just emerging from unity or merging into it. In fact, the main drama of these works is the pull of individual bodies against the modificing pressure of an embracing form. And though figures sometimes wrestle or copulate (at least they do in Eris Gill's work), the most common and the most natural subject here is mothering itself, the primal union of mother and baby.

Breast fination is often a literal description. In Gaudier's Caritas, and later in Moore's Suckling Infant, mothers and children are indissolubly iomed. One block of stone, one organism. The Moore takes a fully infamile point of view, reducing the mother simply to a pair of breasts. And both imand baby stones had just been spotted, picked up and playfully put together.

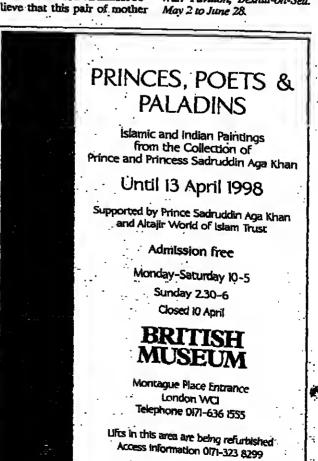
And that's something the tribute to the natural world, and the excellent shapes it turns up. It declares that art is best when it simulates nature, because nature really is more artistic than art - it just oeeds a kind of invisible helping hand, sometimes, to bring it out. Moore and Skeaping take this even further, in little carvings that seem to hope to pass virtually incognito among their natural brothers and sisters oo the shore.

Strange to say, but this school of sculpture, remote though it appears from Dadaist outrages, was its own way an anti-art movement. For what could art make that nature couldn't make better? What could be more true to materials that the materials uomodified?

ter Livesey

And the move into geometrical abstraction in the later Thirties looks like a last minute gesture of recuperation, before the artists had simply to resign their chisels and polishers in favour of uninterrupted beach-combing. Spheres, cylinders, right angles: here were forms that water and weather couldn't do. As a poet said: "I think that I shall never see/a poem lovely as a tree," but you don't want to put yourself out of business completely. It was left to a later generation, Richard Long and other raw nature workers, to realise that that could be good artistic busi-

Carving Mountains, Kettle's Yard, Cambridge until april 26. Admission free. Then at De la Warr Pavilion, Beshill-on-Sea. May 2 to June 28.





TO MILLIONS of parents all through medical school, marman who wrote The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care. To millions of Americans, he was the peacenik of the Sixties; the man who incited decent American youth to burn draft cards rather than fight in Vietnam and almost went to gaol for it. To millions of women liberation for children at the expense of their mothers; and for period he was a dangerous radical, butt of men like Spiro Agnew who called all hippies 'the work of Spock", and Mayor Daley who blamed the ills of Chicago on his "corrupting

So what was Beojamin Spock? If we separate Spock the man, Spock the paediatrician and Spock the politician, we lose sight of a whole that was infinitely greater than the sum of His lifetime spanned every

strict and mildly eccentrie "bluestocking" mother and a stern, distant father who was full Shy, lanky and much-teased, Spock grew up God- and fatherfearing and full of inner uncertainties. His family fitted mto a neighbourhood and society crisscrossed with rigid barriers of race, sex and religioo; wealth, status and generation. The same barriers that kept also ensured a place for each. producing what Spock once described as "a paradox of authoritarian security". Sixty years later he could still remember his amazement wheo his 6ft 4in frame gave him success as a Yale oarsman and took him to the 1924 Olympics and the beginnings of self-esteem.

It was a summer job in a camp for handicapped children that turned Spock towards medicine and it was his own childhood experiences combined with theirs that ensured that the conventional symptom-based medicine of the time would not satisfy him. While America laboured through the Depression, Beu Spock laboured

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grade the state of

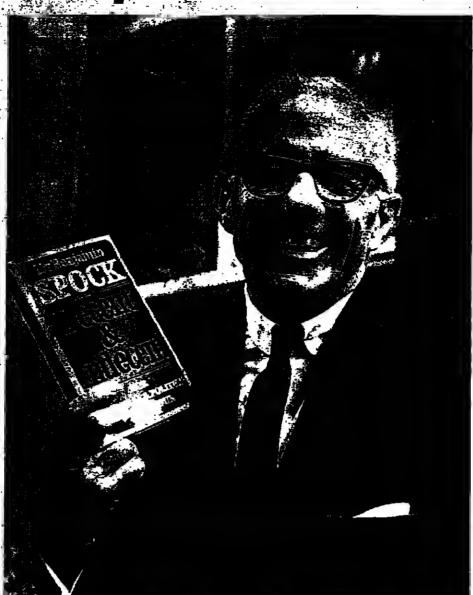
over the world, Benjamin Spock ried, read Freud, added psywas the great baby-guru: the chiatry to specialisation in paediatrics - an unheard-of combination - and underwent a personal psychoanalysis.

By the time Dr Spock set up his Manhattan paediatric practice in the Thirties, he had decided that children were people and determined to treat them as such. Parents were astoundhe was an enemy, advocating ed to find the doctor in a lounge suit instead of an alarming white coat and his waiting room full of toys. They were even more taken aback when he insisted on talking to their children about feelings, as well as to them about those children's bowels. The Spock of the Forties was

to peacenik; indeed the book that was to change everything for parents and children was delayed by his stint as a naval psychiatrist ("I believed in that war, you see"). He was not a chauvinist or a radical either. He was a children's doctor. He assumed the continuation of the . decade of this century. Born in secure moral values of the past, 1903, the young Ben had a but believed that a society shaken up by war could reform itself without the unfeeling authoritarianism which had distorted of rectitude and empty of joy. his own childhood development and which he believed to be an unnecessary burden on family life for everyone.

He wanted to oust the combative spectre of Original Sin so that parents could enjoy their children: "Your baby isn't a schemer. [He] is a reasonable, friendly human being. If you everyone in an ascribed place treat him nicely; he won't take advantage of you." And he wanted to offer parents who now found themselves isolated from traditional family support systems a new security of belief in themselves: "You know more than you think you do," the book

The Common Sense Book of Baby and Childcare was published in 1946 and sold three quarters of a million copies in the first year - an amazing uumber for that time and topsearch and parent education, while his message spread through his country and through the world. The way we think about and rear children, the children's doctor saw a nor the Victuam war and by over. The Vietnam war, which topics that risked the ire of a



Spock: Your baby is a reasonable, friendly human being'

has never been the same again nor ever will be. So allpervasive did his work become that even those who have oever read one of the 50 million copies of the book have been indirectly influenced by what started inside its covers and became an integral part of

Western culture. So why did Benjamia Spock ic. Spock now divided his time not stay with the baby-gum between child development re- role and keep away from politics? As always, with him, the simple answer was "childreu's well-being".

rapid increase in childhood leukaemias and a rise in Strontium 90 in bones. Spock the man spoke up against the outlear testing that was causing this tragic trend and Spock the politician was born of the discarry "the mother's vote" was very, very welcome in Washington. "Dr Spock is for my husband and I am for Dr Spock," lisped Jacqueline Kennedy during the 1960 presidential

But Kennedy managed to During the Fifties Spock control neither nuclear testing

campaign.

Photograph: Hulton Gesty

1962 Spock was Chairman of Sane (the National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy). The Johnson campaign of 1964 brought Spock to angry disillusionmeot. Johnsoo obtained his support with specific guarcovery that a man who might antees to halt nuclear testing if he was elected. Immediately after his election he ordered testing to be resumed. One can still hear Spock the good and moral man through Spock the political innocent who said, "It was impossible for me not to react with extreme indignation."

His political innocence was children were unfashionable

he regarded as "one of the women's movement that had dirtiest wars that has ever been fought", was escalating. Uument and inflation were spiralling. He saw poverty and social injustice everywhere and only the mothers and young people who marched with him Seventies as "a difficult time for in thousands seemed to care: me". Countless sensational ar-Two-thirds of Americans would give up the Bill of Rights in order to justify throwing

young protesters in jail." Spock was a leading figure in the campaign against the Vietnam war throughout the Sixties and in 1968 was indicted for encouraging young Americans to burn their draft cards. He was convicted and, though the Appeal Court saved him from serving his prison sectence. "The whole experience radicalised me. I realised that the United States had always been as imperialist as it dared to be." In 1970 he published a book

called Decent and Indecent: our personal and political behaviour in which he tried to communicate his deep concern for the personal materialism and political corruption he saw all around him. Eventually he was to help to found the People's Party and to run, halfheartedly, for President in 1972.

In the meantime, though, his enormous influence over milficus of young Americans, many of them "Spock babies" grown up, made him a no-holds-barred target for those he saw as oppressors: supporters of Johnson -"the biggest bully of all time";

and Nixon - "an authoritarian man". There was scarcely an ill in a sick society for which he was not held responsible and eveo the new edition of Baby and Child Care, published in the same year that he faced imprisonment, was turned against him. In this new edition, Spock sought to remind people that children need to learn from parminishing in society: a sense of self-gratification; of sensitivity to others as well as to self.

Perhaps the message was too painful for parents; certainly it was untimely, since home and not yet begun to come to terms with maternity. "I hope you realise that you are a major oppressor of women, in the company of Sigmund Freud," thundered Gloria Steinem.

Spock later described the

ticles appeared, accusing him ofthe double crime of having been the architect of the "permissive society" and now of trying, too late, to reverse himself. For the first time, sales of the book plummeted. In 1974 a magazine called the Red Book published a run-of-the-mill article he wrote in a form so sensational it seemed like an attempt at character assassination. In 1975 nearly half a century's marriage ended in divorce. In 1976 he married again and published yet another edition of the book, freed of sexism and carefully referring to babies as "they" ("It makes

them sound a hit like a crowd

though," he commeoted

regretfully).
Although Spock accepted the charge of sexism in his earlier writing, he oever truly felt could anyoue who knew him charge him with being so. As always, his attitudes to wider social issues, including feminism, were shaped by his concern for children: "Of course women as people have as much right to careers as people who are men. That simply emphasises the obvious fact that men have as much responsibility as their wives in who is going to take

care of the children." Spock the man was still first and foremost Dr Spock the paediatrician and it was his coocern for the child who must be father (or mother) to the man (or woman) which had always shaped his political activity - and did so until his death. ents the very qualities he saw di- He explained his underlying concerns in an interview with values; of service rather than the Observer in 1969 far better than anyone can do it for him: We live in a disenchanted, disillu-

sioned age — not about things but about human beings... I believe that Man's disillusionment is based on a misunderstanding of his nature... He is idealistic in his aspirations. His relationships are primarily spiritual.

His capacity for abstract reasoning has enabled bim to discover much of the meaning of the universe. He has invented fantastic machines. He has created beauty in all the arts. All this has been made possible by the aspi-rations kindled in him in early childhood by his adoration of his parents. Whether or not a man has religious faith, he can believe in the power of love and in Man's potentialities for good, if he understands the spiritual development of the child.

Benjamin Spock was still fighting irrepressibly for children in 1988, at the age of 85, wheo I was privileged to share a platform with him and Berry T. Brazelton, America's leading academic and favourite television paediatrician. Hundreds of Boston pareots expected pracrical advice on combining child. care with their jobs, but our preliminary conversations were all about society's failure to give parenting the status and economic priority it deserves. Our convener was becoming desperate: "Dr Spock, can't you say something about the oeed for more oursery schools?" she begged.

"No," replied Spock firmly. "I'm entirely convinced that all our troubles grow out of this materialist, capitalist society himself to be a chauvinist, nor and it's no good tinkering with that by saying we need more nursery schools." Looking at her appalled face, he roared with laughter and added: "The whole damned political and ecouomic system must be changed. That's what I'm going to say and I bet that's what Penny's going to say too."

Next morning, as we waited to enter the lecture hall, she tried ooe last appeal: "People, this meeting is supposed to be about babies. Can't you be a bit less political?"

"Babies are political," Benjamio Spock replied. "Babies are what politics is all about."

Penelope Leach

Benjamin McLane Spock, paediatrician: born New Haven, Connecticut, 2 May 1903; Professor of Child Development, University of Pittsburgh 1951-55; Professor of Child Development, Western Reserve University 1955-67; married 1927 Jane Cheney two sons; marriage dissolved 1975), 1976 Mary Morgan (one stepdaughter); died San Diego, California 15 March 1998.

#### **Peter Livesey**

PETER LIVESEY drove Brit-ish rock climbing to oew stan-with the first free ascent of Face was new, but mere athletic skills leave his signature on a cliff dards during the Seventies.

His speed, strength and stamina were developed young as was the first of many bold, a Yorkshire schoolboy running at national champion level. The seniors in his club included Derek Ibbotson, who had the current record for the mile, and the young Livesey developed the same kind of competitive dedication. He also had a nat-ural talent for other outdoor around." A few might negle over sports, hranching out into canoeing, rock climbing and caving. For a while he concentrated his efforts underground, becoming one of the best cavers in the world, joining expeditions Paru, in Iran. It was only in his late tweoties that he turned seriously to rock climbing. His impact oo the climbing

world was almost immediate, starting in 1971 in the intimi-

Route, previously climbed only with the aid of steel pegs. That strenuous routes up fiercely overhanging limestone. As his close friend and climbing partner, John Sheard, put it, "For Pete to apply the definition 'rock climber' to himself, it had to include the unspoken prefix. 'best'; anything else was playing "best" but all would probably agree that Livesey brought a whole ocwattitude to the sport.

First there was his athletic background. The stamina, strength and speed developed as to Jamaica. Greece and Ghar a schoolboy gave him a natural edge, which he honed by systematic training on the then new indoor climbing walls, particularly during his exile for a year's teacher training practice in the lowlands of Scunthorpe. That

were not enough to succeed hundreds of feet off the ground on steep, potentially dangerous, rock, following incipient lines of tiny holds which others had never tried to link before. Here mental cootrol was everything.

John Sheard, who followed him up countless routes, observes: "Pete was totally competent and safe on things which would have killed the rest of us. He had an amazing ability to hang around and rest - and place fiddly protective equipment - on overbanging rock. When you got there you just couldn't see how he had done it."

Livesey left his mark far beyond the microcosmic world of Yorkshire climbing, particularly in 1974, when he discovered the tenuous, improbable line of Footless Crow, ou Goat Crag, in Borrowdale. Later that year

leave his signature on a cliff redolent with history - Dinas Cromlech. This was the scene of Joe Brown's great Fifties climb, Cenotaph Corner. Twenty-two years on, Livescy tackled the seemingly blank right wall of the great square-cut corner, linking a complex series of moves up tiny flakes of diorite. Right Wall is now an exhibitarating classic enjoyed by hundreds of competent climbers, reared oo a hundred gyms and armed with sophisticated modern protection devices. Twenty-four years ago it was an imaginative Livesey: mental control step into the unknown.

Livesey sought the scale of grander cliffs. In Norway he and stamina. In Provence, he 5.000ft-high Troll Wall. In the the stupeodous Gorge du Ver-Dolomites he free-climbed don; where local experts rested some of the great walls climbed on in situ steel pegs-and pulled



Beyond the parochial cou- originally with artificial aid. In up on them when things got a fines of British climbing, Austria's Kaisergehirge he bit tough-Livesey climbed free. amazed the locals with his speed made the second ascent of the showed what could be dooe in

relying oo ingenuity and the strength in his fingers. His most elegant and celehrated oew route here was

Photograph: Geoff Birtles

cett, eventually surpassed the master and, after climbing his Cheedale swansong Goldeo Mile in 1981, Livesey more or Piche Nibou, although his own less quit rock elimbing. He knobbly-kneed climbing style

was more effective than elegant. at that pursuit just as he had He also dressed in the kind of done at all the others. stylish hand-me-down rags Pete Livesey directed the which would appal today's lycra-

well-respected outdoor purcoordinated Gallic athletes. suits course at Ilkley and Brad-Livesey also left his mark in ford Community College and California's famed Yosemite served on several committees of Valley. A partner on the first asthe British Mountaineering cent of "Carbon Wall" recalls Council, hut his greatest legathat, unknown to the rest of the cy is the actual climbs he creteam, Livesey made a recce the ated and the impact he made on day before the climb, abseiling rock climbing. He took his own down the 500 feet of the route climbing very seriously but the to inspect the difficulties. "It was inner intensity was masked by typical of Livesey: he was always a mischievous sense of humour one step ahead of everyone else, and by moments of inspired theparticularly Ron Fawcett - he atricality, such as the time he had to find ways to outwit Ron, made oue of the first free asbecause Ron really was the cents of the famous Welsh elimb Tensor, solo, in Hush Puppies. The young protégé, Faw-

Stephen Venables

Peter Michael Livesey, mountaineer: born Huddersfield I2 September 1943; married Soma (one daughter); died Malham, North Yorkshire 26 turned to orienteering, excelling February 1998.

#### BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

BIRTHS

HEWES / BURNS: On 13 February, to Deborah and Jonathan, a son, Edward Carl John, a brother for Emily and Theo.

HOLL AND: On 12 March, in London, to Victoria (née Jolliffe) and David, a son (Matthew Theodore Orlando)... MARKES On Priday 13 March 1998 at the John Radeliffe, Oxford, to Barbara (see Anderson) and Lan-rence, a son, Alexander Laurence, a brother for Francesca.

DEATHS

DEATHS
SINDEN: Edith Sybella (née Placheo), widow of Thomas Wilfred, of Maidstone, Kent. Died Wednesday 11 March. Funeral Service 12-30pm 20 March at St Margaret's Church, Baroing, Maidstone, and L.30pm at Vinters Park Creumtorium, Maidstone, Afterwards, all friends warmly invited to join Edith's family at the Blackthorn Trust, St Andrew's Road, Maidstone, Donations to the Blackthorn Trust via Sears Funeral Service, 2 Thornhill Place, Maidstone ME14 28K 01622 754663.

MEMORIAL SERVICES RAINAL Dr Mildós, A Memorial Sor-ia vice for Dr Mildós Rainai will be held in St George's, Hanover Square, on Tuesday 21 April 1998 at 11,30am.

Changing of the Guard

Birthdays Sir William Aldons, a Lord Justice

Sir William Aldous, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 62; Mr Patrick Allen, actor, 71; Professor John Baines, Egyptologist, 52; Mr Jeff Banks, fashion designer, 56; Sir Donald Barron, former chairman, Midland Bank, 77; Mr Gavin Campbell, actor and television presenter, 52; Sir John Chalstrey, Lord Mayor of London, 67; Professor David Dilks, Vice-Chancellor, Hull University, 60; Miss Lesky-Ann Down, actress, 44; Mr Patrick Duffy, actor, 49; Miss Emnice Gayson, actress, 51; Vice-Admiral Sir Donald Gibson, 82; Sir Arthur Hockaday, former Secretary and Director-General. former Secretary and Director-General, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, 72; Professor George Hughes, 200logist, 73; Mr Robin Kaoz-Johnston, yachtsman, 59; Professor John Lill, concert pianist, 54; Mrs Penelope Lively, aothor, 65; Sir Ramsay Melluish, former ambassador to Theiland, 66; The Most Rev Keith O'Brien, Roman Catholic Archbishop of St Andrews and Ed-inburgh, 60; Mr Paul Reddicilitz, forinburgh, 60; Mr Paul Reddicille, for-mer ambassador to Cambodia, 53; Sir Patrick Reilly, former diplomat, 89; Miss Galina Samsova, ballet dancer, 61; Mr Brian Sedgemore MP, 61; Sir Patrick Sergeant, founder and former chairman, Euromoney Publications, 74; Mr John P. Smith MP, 47; Dr Poorid Staffind/Clark penchistrics, 82-David Stafford-Clark, psychiatrist, 82; Mr Max Stafford-Clark, artistic director, Out of Joint Theatre Com-pany, 57; Sir Robert Walker, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 60; Mr Michael

**Anniversaries** Births: Thomas Chalmers, minister, philanthropist and author, 1780; Edmund Kean, actor, 1789; Pasquale

Whitaker, show-jumper, 38.

Stanislao Mancini, statesman, 1817; Jean Ingelow, poet, 1820; Gottlieb Deimler, automobile pioneer, 1834; Kate Greensway, artist and chil-dren's book illustrator, 1846; Margaret Grace Bondfield, the first woman cabinet minister, 1873; Nat "King" Cole (Nathaniel Adams Colea), singer and pianist, 1919; Rudolf Hametovich Nureyev, ballet star and director, 1938. Deaths: Jean-Baptiste Rousseau, playwright and poet, 1741; Gilbert Burnet, bishop and historian, 1787; Priedrich Wil-helm Bessel, astronomer and mathematician, 1846; Christian Jo mathematician, 1840; Christian Jo-hann Doppler, physicist, 1853; Robert Chambers, publisher and author, 1871; Lt-Gen Sir John Bagot Ghibb (Ghibb Pasha), commander of the Arab Legion, 1986; Helen Hayes (Helen Hayes Brown), actress, 1993; Mai Elisabeth Zeueding, actress and film-maker, 1994. On this day: the Duchy of Comwall was created, 1337; Officer Cromwell declared Eng-land a Commonwealth, 1649; Cap-tain Lawrence Oales, with Scorr's expedition, walked out into the Antarctic wastes, never to return, 1912; Marie Stopes opened her first birth control clinic in London, 1921. Today is the St Patrick's Day and the Feast Day of the Martyrs of the Seraneum, St Gertrude of Nivelles, St Joseph of Arimathea and St Pani of

Lectures National Portrait Gallery: Matthew Sturgs, "Anixey Beardsley", 1.10pm. Royal Institution: Rainh Barrett, St. san Aldridge, Irena McCabe, Harry Cole, "Public Debate: the doomed space station", 7pm.

#### LAW REPORT: 17 MARCH 1998

#### Part-time worker's claim did not depend on sex

Jesuthasan v London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham: Court of Appeal (Lady Justice Buder-Sloss, Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Lord Justice Mummery) 26 February 1998.

A MALE part-time worker in the public sector who had been dismissed prior to the amendmeut of the Employment Pro-tection (Consolidation) Act 1978 by the Employment Protection (Part-Time Employees) Regulations 1995 was entitled to claim for redundancy and unfair dismissal in the same way as a female employee.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of V.J. Jesuthasan against the decision of the Employment Appeal Triamend his originating application in his claim against his emplayer, the London Borough of Brian Langstoff QC (Hammersmith Hammersmith and Fulham.

national, began employment with the council io November 1990 as a maths teacher at HM Prisou Wormwood Scrubs. He worked eight hours a week for three years, and his fixed term contract expired oo 30 July 1993 and was oot renewed.

In his originating application filed with the Industrial Tribunal the applicant ideotified his type of complaint as "racial discrimination". The council expressly denied that the applicant had been discriminated against on the ground of his race, and alleged that the sole reason for the decision not to offer him a new contract was that a part-time maths teacher was not required for that acadbunal to reverse the decision of emic year. The applicant subthe Industrial Tribunal, which sequently applied to amend his had granted him leave to originating application to include claims for unfair dismissal and redundancy payment.

The applicant, a Sri Lankan pellant; Nigel Giffin (Head of Act, which limited the right to Legal Services, Hammersmith and Fulham) for the council.

Lord Justice Mummery said

that the crucial point, which

had emerged for the first time oo the present appeal, was whether, in consequence of the decision of the House of Lords in R v Secretary of State for Employment, ex p Equal Opportunities Commission [1995] 1 AC 1 (the EOC case), a male parttime worker employed in the public sector was entitled to claim a redundancy payment and compensation for unfair dismissal in respect of a dismissal occurring before the amendment of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 by the Employment Protection (Part-Time Employees) Regulations 1995.

In the EOC case the Equal Opportunities Commissioo had been granted judicial reand Fulham Law Centre) for the ap- view of provisions of the 1978

a redundancy payment and protectiou against unfair dismissal to employees who were able to satisfy the qualifying periods for entitlement. The House of Lords had decided that those provisions were incompatible with EC law and had declared that, in cases covered by them, the qualifying periods for redundancy payments and unfair dismissal were disapplied.

best elimber in the world."

The House of Lords had held that judicial review was not the appropriate procedure to adjudicate on the claims of Mrs Day, an individual applicant joined in the proceedings, but that the Industrial Tribunal would have jurisdiction to decide the questions of indirect discrimination under EC law raised on the judicial review application.

The applicant was in the same jurisdictional position as Mrs Day, and claimed to be entitled to pursue his claims in reliance on the general declarations in the EOC case regarding "employees" and not just "female employees". The council argued that Mrs Day had been entitled to rely on the declarations of incompatability with EC law by reason of indirect discrimination against women, and that the applicant had not been discriminated against on the ground of sex.

Those submissions, however, involved a fundamental confusion both of the general propositions of law in the EOC case, which had disapplied the qualifying periods in respect of employees generally, regardless of sex, and of the nature of the applicant's complaint. He did not complain of sex discrimination, but claimed unfair dismissal and redundancy pay. It would be unjust to refuse to allow the applicant to amend his claim, and the order of the Industrial Tribunal would accordingly be restored.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

#### INDEPENDENT

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#### lustice is justice, even 80 years late

PEOPLE'S TRUST in their system of government waxes and wanes - though there has, it's true, been more of the latter recently than the former, which is one good reason Labour should, with the Liberal Democrats' support, press on with the agenda of constitutional change and renewal. Yet, while we are suspicious of politicians, we still have an impressive faith in the ability of the state to deliver justice, especially by reopening and reviewing cases where people intensely feel an injustice has been done.

The passion of the Lawrence family, so cruelly let down by the criminal justice system; the determination of the Hillsborough victims' relatives; the anger (and puzzlement) of those deprived of a loved one by CJD there is no guarantee that state inquiries after the event will answer all the questions raised in these cases, or heal the emotional wounds. But the process of truth-secking and, where appropriate, of hlaming, can have useful healing properties. There are those who say the British constitution in its unwritten state is really a matter of proper procedure - outcomes matter less than the fact of fair dealings. Certainly, such inquiries into failed procedure must be conducted by people who are above every suspicion. The Lawrence family's misgivings about the lawyers involved in the investigation of why Stephen's killers were not brought to justice must be quietened,

by a change of personnel if necessary.

It is in a similar spirit that we think the request for a general pardon by relatives of British soliders shot for cowardice during the First World War should be met. Their argument is based partly on this point about procedure. Due process, even by the standards of a British Army at war, was not always observed; relevant evidence was not always presented; the circumstances of the Front were not taken into account. Because trials were faulty, the results were unjust. The men's descendants make another point, too. Cowardice in the trenches was not a moral deficiency but (we might nowadays be tempted to say) an almost rational response to horror, many of the men were suffering almost unimaginable torment in an industrial-scale charnel house.

Their execution cast a stain on individual soldiers, their families and those who remember them. In opposition, Labour, including the armed forces minister himself, seemed to accept the need to wipe it clean. A number of MPs, some of them now in the Cabinet, voted for a general pardon. They were right then. Now they are wrong if - as reports suggest - they are backsliding and having second thoughts.

Of course it is going to be difficult to disinter every case, however accurate the remaining paperwork; of course not every verdict was faulty there is an offence of cowardice in the face of the enemy and not every desertion is justified by circumstance or medical condition. Yet there are two good reasons for a pardon, one specific to the First World War, one more general. There is something special about the place of that conflict in our culture and collective memory. Lately the revisionists have been making progress among professional historians. Scholars are now saying the British Army in France and Flanders were not lions led by donkeys, but lions led by lions; that many general officers (who suffered and died, too) were heroes and talented military tacticians. Nooe the less, Joan Littlewood has the best tunes, still. The war is remembered as a conflict hased on class, an episode in which ordinary people were sent to their death in hecatombs because this was not, in the way the Second World War was, a democratic and popular conflict. A general pardon would recognise the way this war continues to be perceived and go some way to pacifying the still lively sense that it was an especially borrible war.

A pardon would not imply that the officers involved in sentencing soldiers to death were evil men or even that the decisions they made in military courts were "wrong". We must all be relativists, to the extent that we recognise people behave in the circumstances they are given, or are allowed to make. But we are only relative relativists. We have to believe there are universal standards of right conduct which exist outside of time, for without such a scale we lack the means to adjudge that unique event, the Holocaust.

Besides we are not relativist about our own moral climate. To pardon those men shot in the 1914-1918 War would answer a contemporary perception about government. If Labour ministers cared only for their own skins, they would realise refusing a pardon is a passport to unpopularity. They should, however, reflect on the broader case for sticking to their earlier support. Their potency as an administration depends on people seeing government as a set of fair procedures, which are able to correct themselves wheo mistakes are made. That includes mistakes made over the killing of a black youngster on the streets of London. And it includes mistakes made eighty years ago.

#### Remedies for credulity

TWO OF the most abused words in the contemporary vocabulary are "natutal" and "holistic". When they are coupted with "therapy" blue lights flash and sirens sound. Thus all those rational souls who have always harboured doubts about "alternative" therapies will take malicious comfort from the report today that acupuncturists do not always seem to know where they are putting their needles. To be pierced by a non-sterile occide is one thing. But it is quite another kettle of carp to find that some acupuncturists have been sticking their needles into vital organs, such as the heart, lung and spine. Many of us are sceptically tolerant. We note that Prince Charles, the enthusiast for alternatives, resorts to a person in a white coat with medical degrees when he falls off his polo pony. Alternative medicine is fine as long as it does no actual harm; if it cures headache and nausea without inducing fits or heart failure, well and good. But doubts begin when practitioners of cult therapies start putting people in hospital as a result of their "cures". Once we were perhaps over-credulous about the power of conventional medicine - never questioning the lofty doctors, simply assuming that the drugs would work. Now, however, we may be becoming too credulous about the alternatives. A healthy mind is suspicious of all complete systems.



Evening in the Blue Mountains of Jamaica: a boy runs home through the hills

Photograph: Tom Pilston A 9x12 print of this photograph can be ordered on 0f/1-293 2534

#### LETTERS

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone multibe Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondent asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and classes.

to imagine that Canterbury was not there and you were going to build it.

of 500,000 is that otherwise it is not "Let's have a city of at least 40,000 people, and about another 100,000 sultant cover, and thus safe emerjust outside, with a big tourist attraction in the middle; say, two million visitors a year. We'd better tieots with life-threatening. have a university - everyone else has got one - so put 20,000 kids up there. more miles into the hands of top-Stick all the well-known stores in the about paedophilia, rape, or murclass experts than to have the coo- High Street and a couple of super- der? venience of proximity, but thinly markets oo the fringe. We'll oeed a railway station - make that two - a brigade here, police there. Dot some

> "What about a hospital?" "Oh, stick that fifteen miles away." COLIN STANDFIELD Canterbury,

#### After the hunt Bill

SO THE Bill to end hunting with dogs has been lost.

The majority of the nation wanted it to succeed. The majority of country people wanted it to succeed. The overwhelming majority of the bring most of the functions for House of Commons voted for it to succeed. But the Government didn't

want it. An indirectly elected government chosen by an indirectly elected prime minister appointed by a non-elected Head of State allowed our antiquated legislative procedures to frustrate the will of the people and their elected representatives. And The Independent defends this

(leading article, 14 March)! What do we say to the many people who have worked for so long and so hard to achieve an end to this cruel activity? What do we say to dissuade those who want to take "direct MIFARRELL

It is perfectly simple: you just have THE LOGIC of your leading arti- foxes to kill, and states and cle "Drop the humbug about hunt- mice would be kept thown by the ing" (14 March) was exemplary - resident foxes, to the great advanuntil your discussion of the banning tage of the game bads:

of activities for moral reasons. You cited adultery and abortion Ringwood, Hampshire as practices regarded as wrong by many people where you clearly considered legislation to be mappropriate. Would you say the same

Obviously it is a question of bus station and a coach park. Fire jority in this country want a line to be drawn against torturing a wild anindustry around, some churches and imal for fun: you do oot. Your attia few schools and that should do it." tude is as contemptible as the duplications response of the Government on this issue. STAN ROSENTHAL

Linfield

West Sussex

WHY DO so many MP and others say that foxes need culling? When we farmed 86 acres in Devon where there were plenty of rabbits and other fox food, there was no increase in fox numbers in eleven years. Nor did we lose any of our 500 free-range poultry, who were able to roam

anywhere on the farm. We had a fox earth and a badger sett on the farm. We did not interfere with our foxes. We understood. wildlife and took every precaution, not allowing hens to nest in hedges and always shut up houses at night. It is useless for gamekeepers to

shoot, snare and poison every for on their estates, when other foxes will soon replace them from outside. Two keepers I knew had a more sensible solution: if a vixen was seen taking rabhits and other "fur" to her cubs, she was saved. . But if a vixen was taking "feather". to feed her cubs they were all destroyed to prevent these cubs. FARQUHARSON COUSINS killing hirds when adult. In time Harrow, these keepers would have fewer . Middlesex

ERIC ASHBY

YOUR leading article of 14 March states that "practices such as the 'blooding' of children are tittle short of barbaric". Little short? MARK RASMUSSEN.

London Ell .... WHATEVER we may think of fox and deer hunting, Mozart and Beethoven and the musical world

owe the pursuit of animals on horseback an incalculable debt. Without mounted huntsmen the helical horn (cor de chasse) would not have evolved. The helical born was slung in double-coil, from left shoulder to right

mined the length (and therefore, pitch). Longest was 14ft (in D) and lesser boops 13ft and 12ft (in Eflat and F). The multiple harmonies of these long tubes encouraged duet playing; the forests rang - and composers listened. The 18th century
found experiments with a tunnelled sociable little boy who as far as mouthpiece and hand-in-bell-technique transforming the open-air could he honestly he missing? stridency of the corde chasse into the French Horn of drawing-room de-

Mozart recognised the potential and wrote hom parts into all of his orchestral works. Beethoven followed, deeply involving horns in all his symphonies.

We might ask what has become of the relatively musical cor-de-chasse? Today's obviously unmusical huntamen seem content with their short two-note easy-to-play screech thing. Grounds for banning?

#### Don't shun Turkey

THE estrangement between the European Union and Turkey is terribly dangerous, seeming to convey the message that religious difference matters more than secular institutions (leading article, 13 March). The Knrdish problem should not be made an insuperable obstacle. After all. France was a founder member of the EBC despite her war in Algeria.

In a wider cootext, Turkey is the main barrier to the coalescence of a potential sectarian war-froot stretching from Bosnia to Basra and beyond; by way of Palestine. For all our sakes, the Turks should be rewarded for eight decades of secular government PISTEWART

#### No Teletubbies here

INSTEAD of this endless discussion on the comparative merits of different television programmes and their effects on our children, why not compare television with real life.

I have a two-year-old boy and no televisioo. Gasp! I spend my time side. The huntsman's girth deter- with my son walking, visiting friends, museums, farms and toddler gyms, playing with trains, Duplo, "soft stuff" (wonderful invention), hits of cardboard, paper and loo rolls, drawing, reading, singing silly songs.

He is a bright, articulate, happy. sociable little boy who as far as I am aware doesn't miss television; what JUDITH C WOODHOUSE Penarth, South Glamorgan

#### Portia's prejudice

TONY RIDGE is wrong about The Merchant of Venice (letter, 16 March). It is not the heroine who is made to fancy "the noble Ethiopian" (actually he is Moroccan), but the audience. Portia's attitude is best summed up in her two gibes to Nerissa about the Prince's complexion: proving that even a multi-millionairess can come cheap. JAMES LOADER Orpington, Kent

#### Where agony aunts turn when it all gets too much for them

logical course.

Hospital mergers

most vital issues.

YOUR REPORT on the increasing

number of hospital mergers (11

March) did not touch on the two

The prime reason given by the

Royal College of Surgeons and the

BMA for merging so as to obtain

catchment populations of upwards

possible to provide continuous con-

gency services, 24 hours a day, every

day of the year. It is better - mea-

sured in terms of survival - for pa-

conditions to be transported a few

The second issue is that the very

technological developments that

make it vital to centralise emergency

care also allow the great majority of

non-emergency cases to be treated

away from the central hospital.

Rather than closing local hospitals,

they can be developed in a new role

to include specialist outpatient clin-

ics, minor casualty units, radiology and

physiotherapy departments, maternity

units for normal births and facilities

to deal with the elective surgical

work which makes up waiting lists.

having to travel farther (except for

emergency care of life-threatening

conditions) locality hospitals can

which most people have to go to hos-

pital much closer to where they

MPA Health Strategy and Planning

THE SECRETARY of State for

Health and the East Kent Health Au-

thority appear beot on closing Kent

and Canterbury Hospital. All the ma-

jor treatments will be passed to

hospitals in Margate and Ashford,

teaving a cottage hospital here for

nosebleeds and minor cases of gout.

This proposal has come after the tra-

ditional heart-searching and, of

course, bean-counting and is the only

Dr RONNIE POLLOCK

So rather than most patients



WHEN YOU have an emotional problem, you can always write to an agony aunt - but who do agony aunts turn to with THEIR problems? To Auntie Agouy, that's who! The only agony aunt who deals exclusively with the problems and troubles peculiar to agony aunts! And she's back again today with another postbag of problems sent in by the country's agony aunts! Right, that's enough exclamation marks, so on to the emotional minefield with Auntie Agony, and the first problem please...

Dear Auntie Agony, You really must help, as I am feeling almost suicidal. I have been running a problem corner for a major group of provincial ocwspapers for several years now, and the pressure must be getting to me because I find myself subject to the most extreme mood swings. One week I might be bubbly and extrovert, almost manically so, and the next week I could easily be

has obviously affected my work, as the solutions I offer to people's problems tend to vary wildly according to my mood.

For instance, if some woman writes in to say that that her marriage seems to have stagnated and she thinks her husband may be having an affair, I might, if I am in my cheerful mode, encourage her to go out and have an affair herself, to live a little! But if I am on the downward cirve, I might tell her that things aren't going to get any better, that we are sent into this world to suffer and that she might as well stick with a stagnating marriage as anything else.

In other words, I will give two completely opposite pieces of advice depending on my mood swing, and they can't both be right, can they? Well, I suppose they both could be right, depending on the people involved after all, you never really know enough about people to give them the right advice, do you? Actually, I think I'm making a bit just as caught in a deep depression. This of a fuss about nothing. Can't really think

why I bothered you. Having written this let-ter and talked it through has made me feel whole heap better. Thanks, Auntie! You've done it again!

Auntie Agony writes: Not at all. Thank you for showing us your lovely mood swing. And

Dear Anntie Agony, I run a problem corner for a national newspaper which I would rather not mention the name of, and although I am a man, I have always written under a woman's assumed name. I am' sure you can guess the reasons for this. People always assume that women handle emotional problems better, and are more sensible when it comes to sorting out life (though if that were true, all psychiatrists would be women and male psychiatrists would be distrusted!) and I certainly feel when I get down to problem-handling that thinking my way into my chosen female

character helps me to find a solution. The female role I adopt is rather warmer and softer than the real me, but the trouble is I have begun to feel rather attracted to this woman as whom I masquerade, and am very tempted to start an attachment with her. Am I being very foolish?

Auntie Agony writes: Let me get this straight. Are you falling in love with yourself? And wondering if you should have an affair with your-

Dear Auntie Agony, Yes. Auntie Agony writes: Himmmon. Which one of you is writing this? Dear Auntie Ageny, The man.

Auntie Agony writes: Leave her alone, you beast! How dare you take advantage of her? Hands off! And the next ... Dear Anntie Agony, I have been doing my

column for so long now that I have got tired of the banal, repetitive problems which people send me, and I have started inventing problems to solve. In fact, I haven't had a genuine letter in my column for over a year. But I do feel that the problems I invent are them up!

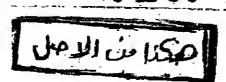
more interesting than the real ones I am sent, which I always throw away. Is this very Auntie Agony writes: You're making this up.

aren't you? Dear Auntie Agony, Yes. Auntie Agony writes: And the next!

Dear Auntie Agony, Almost all papers have an astrology column. Almost all papers have an agony aunt. The astrologer claims that human problems are tied to birth signs. The agony aunis assume that human problems are tied to character. They can't both be right, can they? And yet we take both on trust, and believe both of them! Isn't this just a hit mad?

Auntie Agony writes: What sign are you? Dear Auntie Agony, I am Scorpio. Auntie Agony writes: Typical!

Auntie Agony will be back again soon. Keep these letters rolling in! Or we'll have to make



newspaper is n



#### Hague's best hope: say little and pray for a recession



DONALD **MACINTYRE** 

How should the Leader of the Opposition respond to a Budget that could have been given by a Tory Chancellor?

Here are a few - entirely unsolicited - pointers to how you should handle your speech af- gether. But a few of your own more intelliter today's Budget. My first piece of advice is don't look up at the press gallery before you speak. It's always a bit dispiriting watching the ournalists rush out as soon as the Chancellor sits down. At least convention dictates that most MPs stay until you have finished. Never the less, they will be twitching to get out of the Chamber (poor Paddy Ashdown has to speak to a rapidly emptying Honse) to get onto their brokers, or at least to their local newspapers with the usual banalities - this is a black day/new dawn for our town etc. So you need not to go on for too long.

Which is just as well. Because, frankly, it's not going to be that easy this year. You have a number of problems of which the first and most obvious is the utter failure of this Government to fulfil expectations by being profligate with what they would no doubt call the people's money, You would have cheerfully killed for the borrowing figures Brown's going to announce today. All this "prudence with a purpose" stuff has a rather convincing ring about it. And while you can bang on about the deficit reduction being the legacy of the Tories' brilliant economic management - or more particularly that of Ken Clarke, the man you beat to win the leadership - quite a lot of people still remember how borrowing lurched out of control after the 1992 election. dle England. And this isn't necessarily the Labour governments weren't supposed to act like this. They were supposed to spend like maniacs and then have an economic cosis (like ers beloed to win him his victory, it doesn't the IMF one in 1976). Sadly for you, Brown mean that Gordon Brown doesn't remember

You can't join forces with those City hawks more attractive to be in work, it doesn't mean who will accuse him of not taking enough that Blair doesn't want that to happen too. The money out of the economy in taxes to ease other difficulty is that the economy is in good the pressure on interest rates. To do so would shape – at the moment. A recession if it comes. fatally undermine one of the few attacks you will make your life much easier. Don't forget can mount - on the taxes you hope he will raise. You can't attack him for spending money on education and health - I bet the leaks about Frank Dobson winning another £500m for the NHS are right - without making yourselves even more unpopular than you are already. Nor does it cut much ice to accuse the hopes for. (It'll also mean he takes the cred-Chancellor of being prudent for the sinister motive of making the country shipshape for EMU. You may be anti-single currency - and by the way, you might have a word with your experts comb through them for anything Michael Portillo and ask him why he seemed to be saying on Sunday that EMU might actually work - but are you against curbing the than once in Opposition. Try and find a clear deficit in the way that the Maastricht criteria require? Surely not.

And you should be a bit careful about shouting U-turn when the Chancellor puts some money back into the purses of lone not Peter Lilley doing the job. You're a much mothers. The cuts were yours in the first place better performer at the dispatch box than he - and a lot of North American polling expe- is. And there's only so much you can do. Af-

They mean that the government got it wrong

before and is now getting it right.

Sorry to dwell on the pitfalls. Let's think about the positives. The advice you've been getting from your own experts is that the Chancellor will be less tough on business, especially small business, than his pre-Budget report sug-gested six months ago that he might be, at least in the short term. And tougher on consumers through higher duties on alcohol, tobacco. petrol, and so on. Peter Lilley would probably have done the same if he were the Chancellor. But that needn't stop you attacking Brown for taxing consumers.

Similarly, if Gordon Brown decides to abolish Miras - or cut it again - he will be following a path already mapped out by Ken Clarke. It was after all Clarke who decoupled Miras from income tax rates by bringing it down to 15 per cent. Likewise you should be rather careful about an all-out, detailed onslaught on any measures to close inheritance tax loopholes the Chancellor may introduce. Sure, the Major government was - in theory - attached to the idea of abolishing inheritance tax altogent MPs rightly think it's rather a good tax and that you don't make a more entrepreneurial society by creating a generation of rich layabouts who don't need to work because they've inherited so much dosh from grandpa. The point is that when it comes to your soundbite for ITN, you can still add Miras and curbs on inheritance tax avoidance to your hitlist of New Labour taxes; it's low politics bur it's no less than Gordon Brown did with your 22 tax rises. Don't go mad, however. A fittle humility may be needed with an electorate that doesn't exactly trust you on tax.

One other tip: the advice you've been getting to scrutinise pretty carefully the widely trailed £1bn or so for childcare is sound. If, as seems possible, the Chancellor gives help to lone parents and to couples who are both working, but not to couples with only one income, then you have a line of attack; aren't mothers looking after their children at home also entitled to a bit of childcare money - if only to get out of the house for a bit?

While it makes sense to try and attack the Budget as an onslaught on the middle class, it may in the end be quite skilfully calibrated. There will, for example, be quite a lot more consultation before any move to tax child benefit - which really would hit prosperous midresult of a Brown-Blair conflict. Just because Tony Blair never forgets that Daily Mail readlong ago learnt the lesson from all this. it too. And just because Gordon Brown There are a few other things you can't do. wants redistribution to the poor by making it that it was Brown who made the Bank of England independent. You can always remind the House of that to help him take the blame in future if it fails, after the agonies it is going through on whether to raise interest rates again, to deliver the soft landing everyone it if they succeed - but he'll do that anyway.)

You get the Budget press releases on Privy Council terms well before the speech. Have unpleasant that Brown may not mention in his speech - it's the trick that Blair used more simple message - Blair's depiction of a Clarke's "VAT on fuel budget" was a good example. And enjoy it. It's a good chance to get on TV. It's an advantage that its you and rience shows that voters rather like U-turns. ter all, it was always going to be Gordon's day.

#### Playing happy families is not the way to the nation's heart

Gordon Brown had the grace to look uneasy at his photo opportunity. Quite right, says Andrew Marr: it's none of our

business

HERE is Gordon Brown, man of the day, on marriage: "It's not something anyone should be forced into." His girlfriend (though the term seems a little too girlie for Sarah Macaulay, the dignified and serious lady with whom Broon consorts) merely smiles. The photographers chirrup and whirr.

Meanwhile a small boy name of Ben, the child of Sue Nye, Brown's political secretary - solemnly munches his way through his third birthday tea between the grown-ups. The irresistible effect of the picture. which was on most front pages vesterday morning, was of a family snapshot. Here they are. Gordon, Sarah and Ben.

No problem. Except, of course, that one problem: the whole world, bar a small clutch of forgotten hunter-gatherers in Wales, knows perfectly that Gordon Brown is single. He has been one of the most bachelorish bachelors on the planet, tousled, rumpled, work-driven, reticent. If policy-obsessives can be laddish, then he is even mildly laddish. Wonderful stories are told of his former Edinburgh flat, where dust covered every surface, there was nothing in the fridge and his idea of dressing down for the weekend was to swap a red tie

for a blue tie. Certainly, he has not yet anwhen) he will marry Ms Macaulay. He seems in no hurry. Why should he be? But given all this well-known background, the family snapshot stunt came across as both poignant and impertinent. Here, after all, are real people with real emotional lives, posing for a pre-Budget photo-opportunity to celebrate the state of family - almost as if they were saying: "We aren't married with a child. But, you never know, we might be; we are those sort of people. We would, at any rate, like you to picture us that way." But - please - why? Is the

world still, after the sexual revolution, and women's liberation (postponed) and the arrival of gay ministers, supposed to be so determined that leaders be married that endless undge, undge stories and stagy photoons are thought necessary to enhance Budget day?

The circumstances are unusual, admittedly. The Chancellor was the object of a nasty whispering campaign about his sexuality. Rebutting that was the job of his press officer Charlie Whelan. With characteristic



gusto, Mr Whelan then seemed to make his dignified and reserved boss seem like some frantic serial shapper, the living embodiment of erogenous growth theory. Next came endless stories about Ms Macaulay and the imminence of ber nuptials, spoilt only by Mr Brown's habit of sloping off to watch football and his frank pleas for a little space and time. Sbe, meanwhile, is in a hellish position, and handling it with extraordinary aplomh.

Damned if they do, damned nounced whether, (never mind . if they don't? No pictures of Sarah Macaulay would presumably lead to "Sarah snubbed on Gordon's big day". On the other hand, why should they let it all hang out? They aren't trying to promote films or sell records.

vague. Brown says that "marriage is important and that "I'm sure I'll do it one day", making the whole business sound like passing a driving test. Then came that strange remark about it being wrong to force anyone into marriage. It's strange only hecause,

these days, almost no one in this

country is. One has in one's mind's eye a picture of burly Kirk elders dragging a frantically resisting Chancellor into a soot-grimed church on a hill in Fife. And yet, as a country, we marry less and we marry for fewer years. If we were as family-based as we used to be, there would be no need for four million extra homes. Singles culture is celebrated by television and flattered by advertisers who know how to spot personal disposable income when they

Yet Brown's image-makers seem to disagree. It is partly that a man who will today be changing the incomes of so many families, possibly through mortgage tax relief and child benefit, has to seem as if he knows something about contemporary family budgets, and, therefore, about contemporary family life. He doesn't want to be seen as the dour theoretician of Downing

Street. He needs to be homely. Mr Brown's neighbour in

merely that for politicians, or any other public figures, to respond to this in a substantial way is deadly. To place your emotional life at the service of good PR is coming close to selling your very identity, I don't believe for a moment

that most voters care whether Gordon Brown is going to marry Sarah Macaulay or not. They will read stories about that if such stories are there, and look with some interest at the pic-

Are endless nudge, nudge stories and stagy photo-ops still thought necessary to enhance Budget Day?

politician's family can be used al curiosity. Some of us, maybe, positively by the media. The Blairs bave become almost a kind of alternative Royal Family for the mid-market press and mid-market television. We know when they change their car. We know which football teams their kids support. The Daily Mail, in relatively benign mood, follows the clothes and hairstyles of Cherie with almost as much fascination as it once

followed Diana. These may be ominous echoes, but the press requires recognisable people to at as mannequins for lifestyle journalism. The spouses and children of the famous become handy pegs for articles about education, clothing, holidays, health and furnishing. In return, it is assumed, the famous benefit from the reassuring glow of normality that such pieces confer. My point is

So they opted for being Downing Street shows bow a tures offered up. That's naturassociate family with stability. long-termism, responsibility, and therefore, trust politicians with children more than politicians without children.

> But integrity matters much more. We respond best to politicians who seem to be themselves, John Prescott, Clare Short and Ken Livingstone are all more popular than many drably personable clones because "you know who they are". In this case, Brown really has been more interested in policy, power and eco-

tionships. Other people spend their energy chasing folk mund the filing cabinets; he's mostly been too busy reading whatever's in the filing cabinets. Given his job, that is surely reassuring. To his real friends, it is a lovable trait, And only in a strangely sex-obsessed and voyeuristic age would this be thought so worthy of disapproving comment.

At any rate, his married state isn't going to affect a single vote or change a single mind when today's Budget is unveiled. People in families will applaud Brown if he helps their weekly incomes and curse him if he taketh away. No photo-calls with children or coy hints about forthcoming marriage will sway those reactions. We are not so babyish that we can be bought off by the thought of the Chancellor's hride - not when he affects our pockets. Ministers should not think that suiting the press means pleasing the voters.

So maybe the Chancellor will get married and be happy, and that will be fine. I have a vague but unprovable idea that happy politicians are better for us than unhappy ones. But for me the most reassuringly human aspect of Brown's pre-Budget photo-call was his seething unease about the

#### A newspaper is no ordinary business, it is a trophy asset



rus Rostitz##

**ANDREAS MATTIHW SMITH** 

The founder of the 'Independent' says the dream may be over but the future remains bright

Ireland's Independent News-Tony O'Reilly, announced that agreement had been reached on purchasing the outstanding shares in Newspaper Publishing, which owns The Independent. One of the objectives of the founders of the newspaper was to operate with a wide spread of shareholders and to do without the traditional tycoon-proprietor. In the event, however, I did not feel disconsolate; rather the reverse. I was delighted. The newspaper had been saved.

But how did we get to this point? In 1986 we raised the £18m capital with which the newspaper was launched from 30 or so pensions funds, unit trusts, life assurance funds and the like. We placed a limit on the size of individual shareholdings. Nobody could build up a position and take us over, or so we thought. Among the first shareholders, however, there lurked one individual whose presence was even more

significant than we first believed - Robert Maxwell. His subscription had been disguised by contriving that an investment company would bid for the shares be wanted. We were horrified by his presence, but we

FOR ME it was the end of a ample of a general rule: nadream last Wednesday, when tional newspapers are trophy assets. Like say, luxury hotels or papers, whose chairman is Dr. football teams, owning them confers prestige. This misapprehension was

part, if you like, of a greater er-

ror. We understood well enough the iron law - no profits, no independence. But in 1986 we felt entitled to assume that, for the first time in many years, newspapers had become a normal business. Mrs Thatcher had so weakened the trades unions by removing their legal privileges, that the print workers could no longer maintain their stranglehold and Rupert Murdoch had demonstrated their sudden loss of power by his success in decamping from Fleet Street to Wapping in east London, leaving behind his unionised employees.

It first became evident during the severe recession of the early 1990s that the assumption of normality was unsafe. This slowdown in economic activity was particularly painful for newspapers. It wasn't confined to industrial workers in the Midlands and the North as so often in the past; it hit the middles classes (and the South-East) head on. Its impact upon advertising revenues was devastating and its effect upon circulation income was also failed to see that it was an ex- adverse. Newspaper Publishing James Goldsmith, or Mr Tiny

proceeded to do what normal businesses do in such circumstances. They cut out any activities whose benefits, seen in a harsh light, appear marginal. They forgo new initiatives. They reduce costs where they

We did all those things. Our competitors, however, did not. They didn't cut back at all. That is the point about trophy assets; their owners willingly pay for their upkeep, even in hard times. At all events, we began to feel squeezed. We had made matters more difficult for ourselves by launching the Independent on Sunday just before the recession began. Having made good profits, we fell into We became short of capital.

The iron law began to operate. Not all our existing shareholders were prepared to subscribe new equity. I didn't hlame them. Pension funds, unit trusts and similar financial institutions are unmoved by the supposed prestige of owning a national newspaper. Their fiduciary duties force them, quite rightly, to focus solely on the ontlook for profits and dividends. The point had thus arrived at which we would have to seek a new type of shareholder. If we wished to avoid being bought by a single individual, such as the late Sir

Fayed, or whoever, we would have to turn to other newspaper companies, so long as they were not rivals. They could bring us expertise as well as fresh capital. The first two newspapers to join the sharebolding group were La Repubblica of Italy and El Pais of Spain. Strengthened by the capital they subscribed and helped by an easing of the recession, the losses were trimmed back and we began to operate at break-even. In financial terms, we were stretched but viable.

The events which led to last week's change of ownership began one Friday evening, on the very day when I bad asked our financial director whether he agreed with me that we could get by without seeking a further capital injection. He replied in the affirmative but within an hour or two we dis-

covered how wrong we were. Rupert Murdoch announced that The Times was to reduce its cover price. A new sort of war had begun. Circulation revenues fell sharply. Losses mounted, Independent Newspapers, publishers of The Irish Independent and The Sunday Independent, and Mirror Group, bought out the original shareholders and injected fresh capital. Once again losses were unrealised.

Rowland, or Mr Mohammed Al bauled back. Until finally Mirror Group, seeing that its share price appeared adversely affected by its holding in Newspaper Puhlishing, whose newspapers are so different in style to its own, decided to sell its holding to the Irish group. which took the opportunity to buy out the other shareholders. including El Pais. The Independent and the Independent on Sunday have fallen in with the rest of Fleet Street in having a single owner. End of experi-

> For everybody involved, the recent years have always been demanding, never less than exhausting and often traumatic. The saving grace, bowever, has been that the newspapers have never once fallen short of the aspiration enunciated by their titles - to be independent. To my knowledge, no shareholder has ever tried to influence the reporting of the news or the opinions expressed. I believe this will remain the case. The new owner is the largest publisher of broadsheet newspapers in the world, employing more than 2,000 journalists in Ireland, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. As well as integrity, it brings two boons, stability and resources. That is why I lonk forward with optimism while regretting the dream



BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, JEREMY WARNER ---NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: INDYBUSINESS@INDEPENDENT.CO.UK FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

#### Golden handshake boosted Lord Simon's BP pay packet to £599,000

By Michael Harrison

LORD SIMON of Highbury, who reup a ministerial post in Tony Blair's government, received £599,000 from the company in 1997, including a discretionary payment of £240,000 in recognition of his 36 years service.

BP's annual report and accounts show that Lord Simon received a fixed fee of £326,000 for his four months employment with the company and shares worth a fur-

Lord Simon's total pay from BP was signed as chairman of BP last May to take almost six times the amount Mr Blair drew as Prime Minister and nearly 12 times the amount be was entitled to as a minister of state in the House of Lords.

Lord Simon has waived his entitlement to the £51,838 salary he is allowed to draw as Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe. However, he continues to receive a pension from BP.

A BP spokesman said the decision to

ther £273,000, paid out under BP's long-make the ex gratia payment of £240,000 to Lord Simon was not unusual. "The board decided to give him an honorarium, which is quite common when people retire

> Shortly after taking up the post Lord Simon was criticised by John Redwood, the shadow trade and industry secretary, for failing to disclose his ownership of BP shares. He subsequently sold all his 275,688 shares in the company in August, included those awarded last year under the long-term performance plan.

Lord Simon took advice from the Per- under the company's long-term perfor-Trade and Industry on his BP shares. He a maximum award worth £815,000 under a £1.72m payment under a previous fivedid not sell them immediately be entered government because he was in possession. of price-sensitive information, but nor did he transfer them to a blind trust as other ministers have done in the past. The profit made on his BP shares between May and

August was donated to charity. The annual report also shows John £1.76m, including £821,000 awarded to him was 19.5 per cent, beating the market.

manent Secretary at the Department of mance plan. This year he stands to receive

The 365 BP executives who are participate in the plan stand to receive shares worth £22m this year. Awards under the scheme are based on growth in total shareholder return.

In the three years from 1995 to 1997 the period over which the 1998 award will Browne, BP's chief executive, took home be based - BP's total shareholder return

In 1996 Mr Browne's total remuneration was higher at £2.46m but this included year incentive scheme.

Mr Browne's remuneration, excluding his long-term share award, rose by 25 per cent to £938,000, reflecting the humper year enjoyed by BP.

Replacement cost profit before exceptional items rose by 13 per cent to £2.822bn, return on capital employed reached 17 per cent and BP's debt ratio fell to 23 per cent - half its level four years ago.

#### Retail dip threatens **Sports Division float**

City Correspondent

THERE is growing concern that the £350m flotation of Sports Division, the sports retailer, may have to he postponed because of the recent slowdown in sales on the high street. There is a crunch meeting later this week between the company and its advisers where they will decide bow hest to proceed.

Some analysts said it looked increasingly unlikely the fastgrowing group would come to the market in April or May as originally planned. This timing had been seen as auspicious with the World Cup coming up

Any postponement would be a significant blow not just for the goods sector which has enjoyed a huge boom on the back of the rising popularity of brands like Adidas, Reebok and Nike.

But it is thought that sales have been slower since Christmas and the whole retail sector has been suffering from the impact of higher interest rates. Sports Division's shops have been holding big clearance sales, struggling to shift unsold stock. new HMV Media Group.

n Richards, at the co pany's broker NatWest Securi- major shake-up in the UK book potential sites.

ties, said the timing of the float gramme through cashflow. It had never been stated, but said: "We will go when the market it floats." conditions are right. The

timetable is not set in stone." comment on the possibility of its float being pulled. However, a spokesman added: "Sports Division does not have an absolute requirement to float because the company can comfortably fund its aggressive expansion pro- profitability.

can pick its moment as to when

Nick Bubb, retail analyst at SG Securities said: "If demand The company would not is slackening which may be due to changing fashion trends or the wider economic backdrop, and the supply is increasing because of the aggressive expansion plans of these companies, then that is bound to affect

#### US bookseller plans joint venture with Ottakar ahead of flotation

ican bookseller, is looking to enter the UK book market through a joint venture with Ottakar's, the British chain that company but the whole sports is planning a stock market flotation next month, writes Nigel Cope. The two companies have held discussions about working together on opening large book superstores in town

It is also understood that Barnes & Noble looked closely at both Dillons and Waterstone's about possibly buying one or both of the chains before indicating that they have been they joined forces as part of the

BARNES & NOBLE, the Amer-market which has consolidated over the last six months. It could spark a price war as it has built its reputation on cutting prices in order to drive sales higher and build market share.

James Heneage, Ottakar's managing director, would not may he acquired by the comconfirm the talks but said: "We know the people at Barnes & Noble and we talk to them from time to time. But we are committed to the flotation and we believe this is the best way to take advantage of the opportunities in this dynamic market."

Barnes & Noble has been looking at the UK market for of £310m this year. Its financial some time and had a team of

same stuff at the same prices and there is not a lot to distinguish one from other. The market has been uneasy for some time about the amount of new space they are adding and demand has cooled since Christmas. That is not a happy background for a hig float like Sports Division."

Sports Division has more than 250 stores and was transformed by the purchase of the Olympus Sports shops from Sears in 1995. Philip Green, the former Amber Day chairman, brokered that deal and now has a 13 per cent stake in Sports Division as a result.

It is understood that when the company floats Mr Green has given an undertaking to sell his entire holding. It is possible that if the company decides to delay its float, Mr Green's stake pany or by institutions:

Sports Division, led by the chief executive Tom Hunter, has been battling with rival sports retailers such as JJB Sports, John David Sports, All Sport and First Sport, which is part of Blacks Leisure.

It is expected to record sales adviser is SBC Warburg Dillon



Tom Hunter, Sports Division chief executive (left), with Jackie Stewart, former racing driver

#### Staveley chief quits on profit warning

By Peter Thai Larsen

STAVELEY, the troubled engion us cruet executive along with a profit warning and the long-awaited sale of its two measurement businesses.

Shares in the group fell 9p to 122p as it revealed that the disposals would cause it to report a pre-tax loss of 574m for the case. pre-tax loss of £74m for the year to 28 March.

The company said Roy ... Hitchens had ceased to be chief executive "with immediate effect" and the process of finding a replacement had already started. In the meantime Harry Tulley, the chairman, will take over the running of the minerals division while Bob Brown, the finance director, will run the services division.

"Roy began to feel an inability to put the problems right," Mr Tulley said. "He was losing sharebolders' confidence."

. Mr Hitchens, who was on a two-year rolling contract, was paid close to £600,000 last year. However, Mr Thiley said that this was swelled by pension contributions and that discussions about his pay-off, which had only just started, would only take his basic salary of about £250,000 a

year into account. Staveley has long been criticised by institutional investors for its performance. Guinness Peat Group, the aggressive inrestment group run by Sir Ron Brierley, has 11.3 per cent of the shares.

Last night Blake Nixon, a director of GPG, said the announcement was "rather disappointing" adding that GPG would be considering its position. The financial control has clearly been weak," he said.

Staveley has been trying to sell the weighing businesses since last year, when it decided to focus on its services activities. Its Weigh-Tronix subsidiary is to be sold to a management team backed by Berkshire Partners for £44m in cash. But Staveley could not find a buyer for Chronos Richardson. As a result, the company had decided to turn over the division to its management and to ring-fence the possible losses, which could amount to about £7m. But Mr Tulley said that option was much cheaper than closing down the

. Analysts said the shortfall at Staveley's services division was more worrying. The company said a new management team at Integral, its facilities services business, had reduced the value of work in progress and written off debts with a value of £3.2m. As a result, Staveley Services is expected to make a profit of just £100,000 in the year to March.

#### **US** bidders for Energy clash over \$2.8bn Texas share plan

By Michael Harrison

A FRESH WAR of words broke uut last night hetween the rival US bidders for Energy Group after one uf them, Texas Utilities, was forced to disclose that it may issue shares worth up to \$2.8hn to help finance its offer for the

The rival bidder PacifiCorp said the statement, made at the request of the Takeover Panel, raised questions about whether Texas could issue that amount of equity. PacifiCorp's advisers also suggested it cast doubt un Texas' ability to finance the \$10hn deht facility it is using to finance the bid. Texas is bidding 840p a

share for Energy Group, the parent company of Eastern Electricity, valuing the company at £4.45hn. This compared with an 820p-a-share bid from PacifiCorp.

Texas, which is advised by Lehman Brothers and Merrill Lynch, will pay out a total of \$237m in fees if its bid succeeds. This is about twice the level of fees being paid by PacifiCorp. which is advised by Goldman Sachs.

820p-a-share bid from Pacifi-Corp. However, PacifiCorp already has regulatory approval for its hid while Texas will have to wait until next month to see whether it has escaped a referral to the Monopolies and

Mergers Commission. PacifiCorp also questioned why the full extent of Texas' plans for issuing equity were not disclosed in its offer document, when it was published last week.

A Texas spokesman responded by saying: "We are delighted to have been given the opportunity to demonstrate that we have the capacity to issue equity, unlike others."

Texas said that the \$2.8bn would be made up of \$1.5bn of equity and the balance in preference and convertible securities. The company has already said that up to 20 per cent of its offer could be met by issuing shares. At the time of its hid it also indicated its intention to issue about \$1.4bn of new equity after it had acquired Energy Group.

If it raises as much as \$2.8bn in shares, then nearly 40 per cent of the bid will have

The Texas offer trumped a been equity financed. Pacifi-Corp's bid is 25-30 per cent equity financed.

About 20 per cent of Energy Group's shares are held by US investors in the form of American Depository Receipts.

However, it is highly unlikely that all these shareholders will take Texas paper whilst virtually all the UK institutions are guaranteed to take the cash.

Texas is paying its two fi-nancial advisers, Lehman Brothers and Merrill Lynch, \$20m in advisory fees. However, its offer document shows that total fees, costs and expenses associated with the offer will be £144m or \$237m. The credit facility has been arranged by Lebman. Merrill

Lynch and Chase Manhattan. Erle Nye, chairman of Texas, said the acquisition of Energy Group was consistent with its strategy of delivering long-term earnings growth. However, PacifiCorp challenged Texas to say whether the deal would be earnings enhancing or dilutive if it issued as much as \$2.8bn in new

#### Yorkshire moves to deter carpetbaggers

By Andrew Verity

YORKSHIRE Building Society is looking at introducing a new scheme to beat off carpetbaggers which aims to turn all new savers into long-term account holders

The move would encourage new savers not to withdraw money for at least two years or miss a large bonus paid to long-term savers. This would deter short-term carpetbaggers from withdrawing money immediately after a windfall gain.

Yorkshire last year attempted to stop carpetbaggers disrupting its business by boosting its minimum opening balance to posit accounts we have offered

£2,000 on share accounts - the to smaller savers. That could carpetbaggers include adopting chance to vote on whether to float a society.

Smaller savers have been offered deposit accounts with no votes and no entitlement to a windfall. But from July, the Building Societies Act 1997 will bar Yorkshire from offering non-voting accounts unless customers insist on them. Unless Yorkshire drops the minimum balance, it could cut itself out of the market for small savings.

David Anderson, chief executive of the Yorkshire, said: "After July we can only offer share accounts and not the de-

accounts which give members a mean we lose our ability to of- a tactic used by rival building sofer accounts to small savers, which is not a position we want to be in. The scheme, which is one of

several options being considered, would mean that long-term savings accounts would become the staple product of The society, which has more

than a million members, admitted the scheme would not stop members voting for conversion. But if would stop votes being distorted by temporary members who stayed only to wait for a windfall.

Other options to put off

ciety Nationwide, where new savers have to sign away their windfall rights to charity. Yorkshire would use the same method but would give members their windfall rights back after a set number of years.

The Yorkshire yesterday said its mortgage customers had already saved more over two years in lower rates than customers of Bristol & West received in windfall payouts. A customer with a £50,000, variable rate mortgage, had saved £420.92 compared with customers of the Halifax.

Mr Anderson added that

#### Misconduct findings condemn former top UK accountants

By Roger Trapp

THE ACCOUNTANCY Profession has brought to a close one of the darkest chapters in British corporate history with the announcement of findings of professional misconduct against a firm that was formerly one of the UK's leading chartered accountants, and three individuals. The Joint Disciplinary Scheme last night said its tri-

Oppenheim, which subsequently became part of what is now Deloitte & Touche, and ordered it to pay £100,000 towards the costs of its executive counsel after finding evidence of omissions in its audit of Atlantic Computers. Serious contingent liabilities in the 1988 accounts brought down the leasing firm and contributed to the collapse of its parent company, British

bunal had censured Spicer & & Commonwealth Holdings, in 1990.

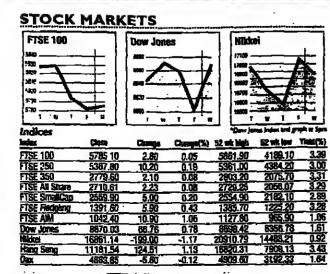
The tribunal also ordered that Peter Goldie, at the time a director of both companies, be censured and excluded from the Institute of Chartered Accountants for his role in the presentation of Atlantic's misleading 1988 accountants and B&C's misleading 1989 interim statement.

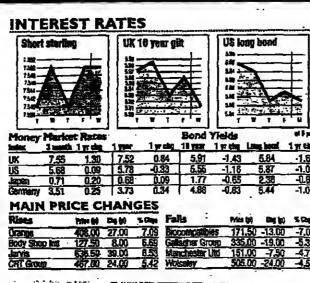
At the same time, the disciplinary scheme, the body that investigates the most serious allegations against members of the accountancy profession, censured two former directors of the group of companies headed by the late Robert Maxwell.

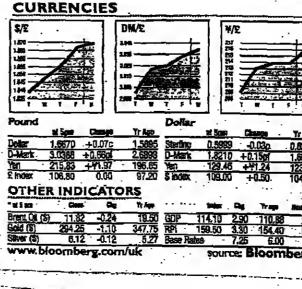
They are Michael Stoney, a director of Mirror Group Newspapers in 1991, and Jonathan Ford, former finance director of the Maxwell-related company London and Bishopsgate Investment Management.

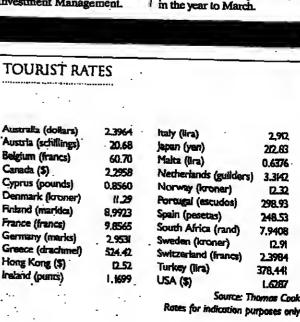
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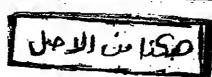
#### A day in the markets











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OUTLOOK ON THE NEW CODE. FOR FISCAL STABILITY. OWNERSHIP OF THE BBC, AND EMERSON'S **BATTLE WITH** MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS

#### Brown's hair shirt will not suit all occasions

One of the great spectator sports for observers of Ken Clarke's Budgets was guessing how many years he would put off his promise of a balanced budget. It turned out that the Clarkeian "medium term", wheo spending and revenues would balance, was a rolling concept. It was always four years from the instant he stood up in the House of Commons, whisky in hand, to set out his latest plans.

In contrast to this "virtue later" approach. Gordon Brown trumpets austerity now. What's more, he is going to make sure every future chancellor follows the same path of righteousness. The Code for Fiscal Stability will legislate for prudent Budgets forever. Each chancellor will be able to choose his own particular rules, whether that means keeping borrowing within the level of public investment (Mr Brown's "golden rule") or the Tories' preferred goal of government spending shrinking as a share of the economy. But they will all have to have a rule, publish it, and show how well they are matching

The new code is meant to do for fiscal policy what Bank of England independence has done for monetary policy. The intentioo is to subject the government's tax and spending plans to unprecedented scrutiny.

It's hard to quarrel with this ambition. But what will the new code achieve in practice? Would it, for that matter, have changed the Ken Clarke approach? The answer has to be perhaps but not necessarily. Extra scrutiny of a mass of Trea-

National Audit Office would have made it a bit more embarrassing for him to postpone his target year after year. It would also have made pre-election tax cuts, like those introduced before the 1992 election, far more transparent and therefore less worth gambling on.

But what a stability code can never do is prevent the kind of economic shocks that overturn the most prudent plans. Recessions will always send government borrowing soaring. Nor can any code ensure that the Treasury's forecasts for the economy and borrowing turn out to be correct.

In the eod the Brown proposal amouots to little more than window dressing. No Chancellor ever wants to run an irresponsible policy, even if some of them have been easily tempted into it when there's an election to win. These days the capital markets tend to keep governments on the straight and narrow far better than any rule is ever capable of doing. Furthermore, what seems right for today can often seem wholly inappropriate tomorrow. Government's always need to leave room for some flexibility. Even so, the code shows good intentions and is therefore generally to be welcomed.

#### **Leave Auntie** just as she is

Nobody doubts the size of the management task facing John Birt, director general of the BBC. In some respects the BBC's lisury documents by parliament and the cence fee is every chief executive's dream

indefinite future. Unfortunately this unique, hypothecated tax is not all upside. The fixed licence fee means there is limited scope for growing revenue, which in turn necessitates spreading a fixed pool of money more and more thinly in the fight for audience. Furthermore, from this year onwards the Beeb will be spending a tenth of its revenue annually on the conversion to digital. That means less money for programming, less money for trouncing in-

creasingly fierce competition. All the same, it is not clear that making the BBC into an institution mutually owned by licence fee payers - as suggested in a new booklet by the Institute for Pub-lic Policy Research, a left leaning think tank - would solve the problem. There would be some potential advantages, obviously. Removing the BBC from public ownership would allow the BBC to raise deht without affecting the level of public sector borrowing or going the whole hog of privatisation, though for what purpose the IPPR doesn't say. And mutual ownership might make licence-fee payers feel more attached to the BBC as well as making the BBC more answerable to its

But in the end the proposal suffers from a fundamental flaw-you cannot privatise a tax without allowing people the right to opt out of it. The virtue of the present licence fee system - which is unique to Britain - is its attributes as a flat rate tax, affordable to all, capable of funding a basic level of quality, public service broadcasting. The moment the BBC is removed from the public sector, a sizeable minority, possibly swelling over time to a majority, is going to start wondering why they should be paying a liceoce fee at all when they spend their lives watching Sky, down the gym or loitering on street corners.

Furthermore, it is questionable that we actually want the BBC independently tapping the capital markets for extra sources of income. The BBC is already a monopoly broadcaster in the UK with nearly a half of the total TV and radio market. That's enough for any organisation, even one producing such lasting monuments of our age as Teletubbies and Eastenders. Nothing would be gained by attempting to make it more dominant still. The BBC is perfeetly all right as it is, thanks very much.

#### Pyrrhic victory for Astec institutions

At first glance, Emersoo Electric's decision to allow its subsidiary Astec (BSR) to pay a final dividend is a victory for institutional shareholders. Two mooths ago Emerson threatened any minority shareholder in Astec who did not accept the US behemoth's offer of 111p a share with a complete suspension of divideods. Now it's performed a U-turn and even proposed that one of the directors it voted off the board a week ago be allowed back on. Has all the criticism heaped on Emerson and its blue-blooded advisers finally made them blush?

Er, not really. In fact, Emersoo's move rather neatly undermines the court case that aggrieved institutional shareholders have brought against it. The institutions argue that suspending the dividend unfairly prejudices the rights of minority shareholders and the Companies Act forbids that. But Emerson has paid a dividend. Ergo, the institutions' case is groundless.

Whether this particular ruse fools a High Court judge remains to be seen. In the meantime, however, Emerson is showing no signs of softening its hardoosed stance. It has pulled out of talks with Astec's iodependent directors after the two sides failed to agree a price. Giveo that Emerson was apparently willing to increase its offer by a whole 7p a share, that's hardly surprising. The Emerson appointees on Astec's board have also banned the four independent directors from speaking to anyone without their permission. Hardly the behaviour of a corporation that has seen the error of its ways.

So the law is now the institutions' only hope, and a fairly flimsy ooe at that. But whatever the outcome of the case, it's clear that the Takeover Code needs changing. The current rules are designed to prevent a bidder from getting above 30 per cent without making a full offer. The rules should require any company wishing to breach the 50 per cent threshold to make a full offer at the same price as it is buying shares. That would have required Emerson to make a bid at 153p wheo it raised its stake last March above 50 per ceot. What the institutions would give for that price oow.

#### **Emerson changes tactics in** battle with Astec investors

By Peter Thal Larsen

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SHIP BILLS

EMERSON Electric, the US giant which is battling to take full control of Astec (BSR), the electronic components group, yesterday changed its stance on Astec's dividend and board in an attempt to improve its chances of winning the longrunning battle with Astec's minority shareholders.

Meanwhile, Emerson also revealed that talks with Astec's independent directors about securing their recommendation for an offer had broken down. Emerson and its advisers are understood to have been willing to offer about 118p per share, compared to an earlier indicative offer of 111p. However, Astec's independent directors had held out for more.

"These discussions have now been terminated," Emerson said yesterday. The news pushed Astec shares down 4p

In a statement, Astec's board, which is now controlled odices their interests. They by Emerson nominees, said it. had decided to pay a final dividend Emerson had previously threatened the company's term profit figure last August. A spokesman for Emerson minority shareholders that it standard prempted a sharpfall—said that Astec had a limit of 10 was considering cutting the "in Astec's share price: dividend completely.

Astec's final dividend has been revised from 1.41p to 1.25p, making a total dividend of 1.94p. This is still an increase. of 7.8 per cent over 1996.

Last night, City experts said

by Emerson to undermine the court case that institutional shareholders in Astec have started against the US company. The institutions have argued that Emerson's threat to cut the dividend unfairly prejalso allege that a director nominated by Emerson forced the company to report a lower in-

the allegations and that it was seeking to have the petition dismissed. The company yesterday applied to the High Court to strike out the proceedings.

In a further development,

the move was a clear attempt. Astec announced that it would ask for Neal Stewart, the group's technical director who was one of the company's founders, to be reinstated to the board at the company's annnal general meeting. Mr Stewart was one of Astec's three executive directors who was voted off the board by Emerson at an extraordinary general meeting last week.
A spokesman for Emerson

directors, requiring it to replace Emerson said it rejected three directors with its own ap- \$43bn (£26bn) bail-out. pointees to get a majority. Now that it had a majority, it would seek to increase the number of board members, allowing it to bring back Mr Stewart. Outlook, this page

#### Jakarta 'cabinet from hell' ponders IMF terms

By Stephen Vines in Hong Kong

MIXED SIGNALS emerged from the controversial new Indonesian ministers as they were sworn into office yesterday dubbed the "cabinet from hell" while the international community waited for signs Jakarta might take a more conciliatory attitude on implementing economic and financial reform.

Jusuf Habibie, the new vicepresident, told visiting Tokyo officials that his country could implement all but two provisions in a 50-point programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in exchange for a

President Suharto said last week that many of the IMF's conditions ran contrary to the country's constitution and therefore could not be implemented. Mr Hahibie was yesterday reported as saying that 40 of the reforms could be implemented soon and eight others could be adopted after some revision. But he stated that monopolies on the spice trade and on agricultural products other than rice could

not be scrapped. But Mohamad "Bob" Hasan, the oew trade and industry minister, and close business associate of the Subarto family, who holds the lucrative timber trade monopoly, said such monopolies sometimes served the public

interest. The IMF sees market liberalisation as a key aspect of economic reform, "Some monopolies help the people," he said, without being more specific.

Speaking yesterday in Hong Kong, Adam Schwarz, an Indonesia expert at the US-based Council on Foreign Relations, said bluntly that "the Indonesian economy is not on the brink of collapse, it is already collapsing". He cited the mounting pres-

sures of inflation, now in the range of 200-300 per cent, the virtual cessation of imports because of the lack of foreign banks prepared to accept Indonesian letters of credit and the breakdown of the internal distributioo system.

Mr Schwarz said that the corporate sector was "functionally bankrupt" and would even be so if the local currency appreciated in value by 50 per cent. Moreover there was even worse news to come because corporate debt accounted for around 80 per cent of Indooesia's foreign debt. Most of this debt had been saved from default by short-term borrowings which will mature next month and in May, triggering yet another liquidity crunch and possible defaults.

While economic problems were multiplying Mr Schwarz sensed a "large gap between how the outside world and the Indonesian leadership perceives the crisis".



#### Go 'beauty contest' triggers chaos among airline unions

The Amalgamated Engi-

By Barrie Clement Labour Editor

GO, the cut-price offshoot of British Airways expected to start services in May, is facing a chaotic scramble for members among competing unions after a split emerged between the main labour organisations.

Some unions vesterday declared their readiness to enter a "beauty contest" arranged by the company to see who should represent employees, while others have refused to have any-

thing to do with it oo principle. The deep difference of opinioo means that while one union may be selected by management to represent staff, others will be actively recruiting employees in order to undermine the whole industrial relations system.

neering and Electrical Union and the MSF white collar union have decided to make presentations to management in an attempt to be chosen as the single union to represent staff, but the Transport & General and the GMB general union are bitterly opposed to the arrangement. The latter argue that employees should choose which organisations they want to represent them, not employers. An MSF source said that his organisation

would rather participate in a beauty contest than allow Go to become a non-union company. Management wants the successful union to acquiesce over a three-year pay freeze and to agree to a system in which up to one-third of employees' reformance-related pay. Union officials also point out that rates of pay at Go will be 20-30 per cent below those at the parent company BA.

Sean Keating, a national official at the GMB, has already launched a campaign to recruit Go staff together with non unioo members at competing cut-price airlines Debonair, Ryanair and easyJet. He said he was "disappointed" that sister unions had decided to participate in the process. "When we recruit members at Go, it will be irrespective of any agreement reached by management

with another union," he said. George Ryde, national officer at the T&G, pointed out that his union were the largest in the industry and would be seeking muneration is made up of per-members at the oew airline.

#### **Brown lays** down law on fiscal prudence

By Diane Coyle Economics Editor

GORDON BROWN polished his Iron Chancellor image yesterday by announcing that goveraments will in future he required by law to run a prudent fiscal policy.

Confirmation of his intention to introduce a Code for Fiscal Stability came a day ahead of a Budget expected to be tough on spending and borrowing. Although the government's finances are in better shape than he predicted as recently as November, the Chancellor has made it plain he will not ease his tax and spending plans.

The oew code will subject levels of tax and expenditure to stricter parliamentary and public scrutiny. It is intended to mirror the transparency in interest rate policy resulting from the Bank of England's independence since last May.

The Chancellor is determined to prevent the British economy from reverting to its old pattern of boom and bust. His proposals got a guarded welcome yesterday.

Kevin Darlington at ABN Amro said: "It does opeo up fiscal policy to moch greater scrutiny." Simon Briscoe at Nikko Europe said firm rules would be helpful, but added: "It is only a way of dressing up what is already accepted practice."

Mr Brown has indicated that if there is leeway for any increase in spending, he will make sure this takes place in the second half of Labour's term of office. But he is determined to refute allegations he is being tough on spending now simply to build up

Outlook, this page



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#### Gallaher allegations hit UK tobacco firms

By Andrew Yates

MORE THAN £186m was wiped off the value of the two biggest British tobacco groups yesterday after allegations emerged over the weekend that such as Benson & Hedges and Silk Cut, knew smoking caused cancer almost 30 years ago.

Shares in Gallaher fell 19p to 335p and Imperial Tobacco's stock gave up 10.5p to 401.5p amid fears that the documents would increase the chance of successful litigation against the two tobacco giants.

Anni-smoking campaigners claimed an internal confidential memo from Gallaher's former general manager of research to its managing director proved the group knew smoking caused cancer as far back as 1970. The research executive concluded that independent research using beagles in the late 1960s "proves beyond all reasonable doubt the causation of lung cancer by smoke" and that the re-

remove the controversy re- agree that smoking is a risk facgarding the causation of the majority of human lung cancer."

Leigh Day, the solicitors representing 52 lung cancer victims in their bid for compensation from Gallaher and Imperial, Gallaher, supplier of brands said yesterday the new evidence significantly raised the chances of mounting a successful legal claim against the industry. "The tobacco companies have always maintained that there is no proven link between smoking and cancer. This blows their defence out of the window," said a spokeswoman for the firm. This is only one of many documents that will surface over the next few months that will

> engthen our case," she added. Gallaher hit back at the claims, saying the memo had simply been an initial reaction to the research and that it was later discounted by the company after being heavily criticised the scientific community.

A Gallaher spokesman said: "Our position is that the link between smoking and cancer has search "would appear to not been proved, although we

tor and that statistics show that if you smoke you are more likely to get certain diseases,"

"We have of course been aware of the existence of this memo and its publication now does nothing to change our confidence in our ability to defend ourselves against litigation," he added

Clive Bates, director of antismoking group Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), said: "This is the great beauty of lingation - their internal documents show what they really knew and how they behaved, and their top executives have to take the stand under oath. Litigation means the truth does actually come out and the PR waffle gets taken to pieces."

The next stage in the UK action by lung cancer victims will take place on 3 April when a sudge will be named for the case. The full trial is now expected to take place next year, after the claimants recently won the right to fight on under a no-win, no-fee



Groupe Chez Gerard, the restaurant company, yesterday served up a leap in first half profits as it halled London as one of the culinary capitals of the world. The group, which includes Chez Gerard, Livebait, Bertorelli's, Soho Soho and Scotts, saw pre-tax profits

surge 34 per cent to £1.76m for the 26 weeks to 28 December, from £1.31 m a year ago. Neville Abraham,

the chairman and chief executive -- pictured above outside Livebait, flanked by Laurence Isaacson (left), the marketing director, and Ian Holder, finance director said the group had carved a niche in the market. "London now has the reputation of one of the gastronomic capitals of the world because of the variety, quality and number of its restaurants."

#### Newcastle chiefs under fire as shares slump by £7m

By Andrew Yates

THE STOCK MARKET value of Newcastle United slumped more than £7m yesterday as the City reacted negatively to news- after just seven months with the paper allegations that two di-club. Soon afterwards, Alan rectors launched an attack on Shearer, the club's star £15m the club's supporters, players striker suffered a long-term inand managers.

The shares fell 5 per cent to 85.5p as outraged fans called for the resignation of the chairman Freddy Shepherd and Douglas John. The club is now valued at £122m compared to £193m when it was floated at 135p last year. Newcastle has been beset by

caused its share price to collapse. Mark Corbidge, the group's former joint chief executive, quit the board last year jury and plans for a new £90m stadium had to be shelved he-

cause of planning problems.

The group's new management team, led by chief execu-Hall, son of former chairman Sir tive Freddie Fletcher, had promised to turn around the disappointing performance including plans for a redeveloped 55,000-seater stadium at a serious of problems since it St James' Park.

Newcastle are now way off the Premiership title chase, have fallen to a disappointing position in the league and the latest revelations come as crushing blow to the group's credibility in the City.

Newspaper reports suggest ed that Newcastle sold the striker Andy Cole to Manchester United for £7m despite the fact that he faced the prospect of a career-threatening knee injury. Manchester United's assistant secretary Ken Ramsden rubbished the claims. "The story is nonsense. When we signed Andy Cole we took all the precautions you would be expect-

#### Sun Life & Provincial profits leap as merger savings beat expectations

SUN LIFE & Provincial Holdings, the French-controlled insurer formed from the merger of Sun Life and Axa Equity & Law, yesterday unveiled a 54 per cent jump in pre-tax profits in the year of the merger, writes Andrew

The group, which is the third largest insurer in the UK, also surprised the City by revealing that savings from the merger were 10 per cent higher than it had hoped.

Shares in the company rose 20p to 580p, valuing it at £4.54bn. Earnings per share jumped by half to 26.8p.

Pre-tax profits rose to ed to take in a transfer," he said. | £337.7m, 54 per cent more than

both groups before the merger. Operating profits, which exclude gains from the sale of its Irish operations, also grew by 14

per cent. However, the group warned that while its businesses had done well, the value of new business would be difficult to sustain because of competitive market conditions.

Mark Wood, chief executive of Axa, said: "We don't think that our competitors' pricing is sustainable. What we are saying is that we need to get a balance between margin and volume. We are going for margin rather than volume."

Sun Life & Provincial shar closed at 580p, up 20p.

#### BTR notches up another £650m worth of disposals

BTR, the industrial conglomerate, yesterday took another step towards reinventing itself as a focused engineering group with confirmation that it had made a further round of disposals worth £650m, writes Terry Macalister.

Its Australian building products businesses and Formica Corporation have been bought in cash by venture capital group, CVC Capital Partners. The Australian business was to be floated on the local stock market but BTR changed its mind, worried about the effect of the Asian economic crisis on Aus-

tralian stocks. Two weeks ago BTR an-

aging business for £2.2bn to Owens-Illinois, Last year BTR sold its polymers division to a venture capital buyer for

BA climbs .11

The moves are part of an ongoing divestment programme announced last September. Proceeds are to be used in the previously announced £2bn return of capital to shareholders.

Profit from Monday's sale after goodwill already written off is £80m. After reinstatement of goodwill the loss is £520m.

BTR said it was "making good progress" selling the main remaining business in its divestment programme - namely MBCI, the US metal building nounced the sale of its pack- components business.

#### THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

#### **Pearson proves** doubters wrong

THOSE WHO questioned Marjorie Scardino's ability when she took over as chief executive of Pearson at the end of 1996 have been proved badly wrong. Under ber tenure shares in the information and entertainment conglomerate have gained more than a quarter in value. And that's without resorting to the kind of drastic surgery City opinion felt that Pearson needed when she took the helm.

Ms Scardino has made some smart moves. She's pumped £100m into the Financial Times to boost sales in the US and continental Europe, and added to Pearson's television assets by splashing out £250m on All American, maker of Baywatch and The Price is Right. However, she's also had to weather a huge false accounting scam at Penguin. Meanwhile, disposals have been lim-

ited. Though welcome, the sale of Mindscape, the disastrous computer games firm which effectively ended previous chief executive Frank Barlow's tenure, was hardly a tough decision. A few minority shareholdings have been sold, while a few more will be disposed

Despite Ms Scardino's silence yesterday, the for sale sign also appears to have been hoisted over computer magazine publisher Future. But the suggestion yesterday that she might for now be willing to hang on to stakes in the Lazards investment houses, as well as Madame Tussauds, was enough to wipe 16p off the shares, dragging them down to 960o.

Pearson might be thinking of buying. shares are high enough for now. The Simon & Schuster publishing assets, which are currently being aucnoned, are clearly on its wish list. In Hammerson television, meanwhile, experts believe Pearson needs distribution capacity to backs the boom go with its content, so it may be in the market for minority stakes in television channels in, say, continental Europe.

Will all this be enough to achieve Ms Scardino's aim of producing double-digit earnings growth and doubling the size of the business in five years? That remains to be seen. The 15 per cent increase in operating profits to £323m reported yesterday was a good start, but will be harder to repeat

in future years. The most important point about nificant exposure to digital television

#### Pearson: At a glance Market value: £15.34bn, share price 950p (-16p) 1997 1993 1994 1996 **Five-year record** 1.83 219 2.29 Turnover (£bn) 1.87 1.55 Pre-tax profits (£m) 357 129 209 27.00 40.40 47.10 42,90 6.70 19.50 15.00 16.50 18.00 Dividends per share (p) 13.00 Operating profits by division Share price

hope than many of its peers in the media sector. Even so, on a multiple of A more important question is what 22 times forecast 1998 earnings, the

EVERYBODY in the property inchistry is wondering just how long the boom will continue. Ron Spinney, Hammerson's chief executive certainly thinks the good times will continue to roll.

Hammerson is putting its money 8.5 per cent. where is mouth is, launching an ampremise that there is still plenty of demand for the right schemes in the right a total £150m on new UK develop- resents an 11 per cent premium or new media, its shares rely less on ments, up from £60m last year. And in compared with a 14 per cent average recent re-rating. Good value.

1999 it will plough another £100m into the British property market.

The group is concentrating on central London offices and prime shopping centres. It has just bought Britannia House, a site near London's Old Bailey law courts, and is investing a total of £45m to develop the site.

Hammerson certainly has the financial firepower to fund the investment programme. Gearing has fallen to 58 per cent and net assets per share showed a robust 13 per cent increase to 439p. Net rental income rose from £121.6m to £122.7m in 1997, while there was an underlying increase in the value of Hammerson properties of nearly

Hammerson's shares rose op to expensive compared to peers. Nat West Securities puts Hammerson on a curfor the property sector. That said. concerns remain that the UK property cycle is moving to a mature stage, the economy is slowing down, and developers might be expected to be pulling in their horns rather than looking to ex-

And hopes of a blockbuster property merger appear to have faded. Having failed to entice rival MEPC into a merger, it looks like once bitten, twice shy, and Hammerson has ruled out another deal, Hold.

#### Bunzl on a roll with fresh focus

WHO SAID the paper and packaging sector was dull? Bunzi is producing the sort of growth that the average go-go pharmaceutical stock would be proud. Its 1997 pre-tax profits rose 11 per cent to £126m, and without the problems caused by the strength of sterling, earn-

ings would have risen by 16 per cent. Under chairman Anthony Habgood, Bunzl has focused on what it knows best, namely making packaging for supermarkets and supplying plastic caps and plugs. Bunzi has expand-ed rapidly by buying wisely and its paper operation, traditionally a volatile busi-

ness, has wisely been slimmed down. Analysts estimate that Bunzl showed organic growth of 8 per cent last year, no mean feat for a manufacturer and distributor, by picking up share from competitors. This sort of heady growth rate will be difficult to sustain, however it should still be able to expand its existing business by at least 6 per cent a year. And there are plenty of acquisition possibilities, especially in Europe where its chosen markets. remain fragmented.

Bunzi is still vulnerable to the vagaries of the paper price but has proved among the best in the industry at coping with its peaks and troughs.

Bunzl's shares have risen by almost 30 per cent over the last few months, helped by a resurgence in the value of second liners as fund managers search for value outside the FTSE 100. And the strong results saw the stock rise another 13.5p to 287p yesterday.

Panmure Gordon has upgraded current-year profit forecasts by £7m to hitious expansion programme on the 508.5p yesterday, but still do not look £133m, and by £5m to £145m in 1999, putting the shares on a prospective p/e ratio of 15, falling to 14. Bunzl is still Pearson, however, is that without a sig-place. It plans to spend £115m out of rent net asset value of 456p which rep-sitting on an undeserved 20 per cent discount to the market, even after its

#### Brussels gives go-ahead to Coopers-PW merger

THE PROPOSED \$13bn (£7.9bn) merger between accountancy firms Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse moved a stage closer yesterday, when the European Commission confirmed it would not issue a statement of objections. The move, which follows last week's approval of the deal by the US Justice Department, is expected to be followed by formal clearance in about six weeks. It is thought that progress was eased after KPMG and Ernst & Young's rival plan was abandoned earlier this year. But both Coopers and PW denied reports that they had made concessions in order to secure approval. "The deal on the table now is exactly the same as we proposed in September," said a spokesman.

#### Scardino growth pledge

MARJORIE Scardino, chief executive of Pearson, renewed her pledge to deliver double-digit earnings growth yesterday as the media group reported record annual profits. Pearson. owner of the Financial Times newspaper, Madame Tussauds waxworks and TV soap Baywatch, made pre-tax pre-exceptional profits of £285.9m in 1997, up from £251.8m a year earlier. Ms Scardino said she planned to focus on Pearson's main businesses - business information, educational publishing and TV and entertainment -- while selling non-core assets such as stakes in BSkyB and Flextech.

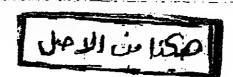
#### Pensions sell equities

UK PENSION funds made their higgest ever quarterly disinvestment from domestic equities in the final quarter of last year, selling £7bn worth, according to official figures. This was the ninth consecutive quarter of net sales. Although share buybacks were part of the explanation for the scale of the move at the end of last year, maturing pension funds are switching more heavily into gilts and overseas government bonds. They were also net sellers of overseas equities.

#### Smiths Industries sale

SMITHS Industries is selling its Graseby product-monitoring and environmental divisions to Thermo Electron Corp for a total of £44m. The consideration includes repayment of intercompany debt. The divisions were formerly part of Graseby plc, acquired by Smiths Industries towards the end of 1997. The proceeds from the sale will be used to reduce debt.

	Turnover £	Pro-cax £	<b>EPS</b>	Dividend
agle Pacific (F)	4.02m (3.28m)	2.34m (0.466m)	2.44p (-0.04p)	
USW Heldings (i7)	464.5m (531.5m)		-6.9p (-61.9p)	pi
transfers (ffre (ff)	23.4m (21.9m)	2.38m (1.73m)	10.0p (7.1p)	3.25p (2.70p
card (F)	1,75bn (1,79bn)	125.9m (113.5m)	17.9p (16.4p)	
A Coults (F)	26.71m (19.57m)		12.9p (10.6g)	
anglish Chies Clays (F)	845.3m (846.3m)	88.5m (-42.9m)	21.8p (-1883p	3.6p (3.0p)
carby Braup (F)	320.7m (246.6m)	52.20m (43.97m)	35.7p (32.0p)	10.0p
de ladeur (F)	39.3m (34,9m)	1.90m (1.20m)	8.85p (5.02p)	
20255 (F)	177.4m (178.4m)	10.0m (9.2m)	2.4p (1.3p)	
Johni Greep (T)	130.8m (148.2m)		-0.78p (1.87p)	0.6p (0.4p)
CALLED (I)	78.9m (65,5m)	1.40m (0.718m)	10.56p (5.48p)	0.70p
roupe Chez Gerard (1)	13.38m (8.80m)	1.76m (1.31m)	7.2p (5.1p)	
ACTRIBUSES (F)	- <del>(-)</del>	61.7m (70.0m)	15.8p (18.9p)	1.15p (1.0p)
ioni Hardware (I)	110.4m (82.8m)	4.91m (4.14m)	16.3p (12.9p)	8.1p (7.5p)
STROGEN (ATOM) (C)	23.20 (13.20)	4.81m (2.71m)	16.2p (13.5p)	5.750 (5.20)
larskalis (9 milus)	178.7m (216.9m)	11.08m (19.51m)	1 50a (7 95a)	3.9p
intanax Greek	101.3m (96.6m)	13.23m (11.52m)	7.36p (6.2p)	4.0g
617 Green (F)	518.0m (458.0m)	10.05m (8.28m)	25.60 (21.1p)	4.15p
plrate States (F)	265.6m (272.0m)	47.72m (47.11m)	38.3p (38.0p)	- 10:00
us Life (F)	· (·)	289.8m (134,8m)		15.80 (14.8 <sub>0</sub>
migrant Mariles (F)	1.55m (0.595m)	-21.6m (-10.95m)	27.8 ((8.4p)	6.78p
hallagion (F)	60.19m (57.78m)	2.82m (5.78m)	-85.0p (53.0p) 8.15p (17.0p)	nii. 8.30p (8.10p)



#### BA climbs amid hopes of go-ahead for US deal

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

ing round to the view that British Airways is near to clinching its controversial transatiantic alliance with American Airlines.

The group's shares, which formed, rose 22p to 596p. They are still a long way below the 760p achieved nearly a year ago but have at least climbed from the 499.5p low hit last month.

BA and its proposed US partner have battled long and hard and, for a time perhaps too belligerently, to win approval from the Eurocrats of Brussels. Close observers feel that after months of uncertainty the airlines have started to decisively win the argument and the EU may demand only modest concessions. The Brussels decision could be known in the next few

The proposed alliance has been under scrutiny for nearly two years with many airlines.

the creation of a far too powerful competitor.

The rest of the market experienced a typical pre-Budget session with trading volume again inflated by bed have sharply under-per- and breakfast deals. Footsie ended modestly higher, 2.8 points at 5,785.1, with the mid and small caps indices again

stretching to new peaks. Cadbury Schweppes was one of the few Footsie constituents to reach a new high. The shares rose 16p to 833p with the market taking an increasingly positive view of the soft drink to sweet group's US prospects.

It splashed out £1.6bn for America's third largest soft drink group three years ago. The last trading report was upbeat and Cadbury's reduced its dependence on US bottlers, some owned or related to its big rivals, Coca-Cola and Pep-

si Cola, by taking a minority interest in a bottling operation. . Cable & Wireless again

THE STOCK market is swing- objecting to what they saw as drew support from talk of an at 2,600p, and Smithkline number of predictable casu-800p a share offer from the Beecham, 20p to 737p, were hit alties; Bass fell 12p to 1,069p; Waverley Mining, once riding by Goldman Sachs caution. Continent, gaining 10p to 710p. Orange, with Nat West Securities signalling a 415p tar-Hanson, the building materials group, hardened 13.5p to 365p following a Panmure

Share Spotlight

Cadbury

MAMJJASONDJFM

800 - Schweppes

share price, pance

get, went to 408p, up 27p. ScottishPower surged Gordon push. 23.5p to 508.5p as two top ex-Publisher Reed Internaecutive exchanged jobs and tional gave up 21p to 578p as Dresdner Kleinwort Benson Cazenove placed 5 million made positive poises.

The raising of the foreign shareholding ceiling lifted Rolls-Royce a further 7p to 282p and British Steel, on reports that it plans to sell its cargo fleet, put on 4.5p to 143.75p.

Liberty International, the financial group seeking a sig-nificant acquisition, shaded to 599.5p. There is talk that it had its eyes on GRE, the insurer, off 16.5p to 439p; another rumoured target is Pearl, the insurance group now owned by Anstralian inter-

Tesco gained 7p to 538p with SG Securities suggesting a 650p target. Zeneca, off 99p

perial Tobacco 10.5p to recording it was in bid talks. Retailers were anxious

figures, due tomorrow. They are expected to be depressed. Dixons, which is losing its Footsie place, fell 6.5p to 472.5p, Boots 11.5p to 898.5p Budget nerves produced a and Next 8.5p to 725.5p. DFS

> were among other losers. Newcastle Utd fell 4.5p to 85.5p on tabloid sleaze allegations and Manchester Utd suffered a 7.5p decline to 151p after the weekend reverse

Furniture, off 14p to 415p, and

Debenhams, 9.5p to 371p,

against Arsenal. Hunting rose 7p to 236.5p on the £24.7m sale of its largest aviation business. It intends to concentrate on its oil operations.

Tele-Cine Cell, a special effects film and video group, firmed to 71p. It is in talks with Todd AO, the US group,

which could lead to a bid. Gallaber 19p to 335p and Im- at 132p, rose 7p to 23p after

Britt Alleroft, the Thomas the Tank Engine group, ahead of February's shop sales jumped 49p to 241.5p with some suggesting a Walt Disney bid was in the offing. Talk of deals in the transport sector pushed Prism Rail 54p higher to 465p.

Fibernet, rolling out a digital network, jumped 40p to 293.5p on weekend comment and Rage Software added a further 0.75p to 15p following its Sony deal.

Hornby, the toy group fell 12.5p to 245p after Friday's takeover denial. There was talk that major shareholders had been approached with a 300p a share offer. Pennant International,

maker of computer-based training systems, continued to attract support following Thursday's placing at 125p; gaining a further 13p to TAKING STOCK

ATLANTIC Caspian Resources, born out of the old Wedderburn property group, is hoping to emerge as a niche oil player. It is betting heavily on developments in Kazakstan where its first field should start producing in a few weeks. Chairman Peter Catto, an accountant, believes ACR can prosper by concentrating on fields the oil majors regard as too small. Kazakstan, he says, is the last great oil lottery. The company, which should announce a near break-even result soon, will later raise more cash, around £3m through a private placing. It has an ADR but

TRING International, the budget music group, is planning a cash raising exercise at 5p a share. Once 151p, the shares rose 3p to Sp. The company suffered a £2m loss last year although once exceptional items were stripped out it made profits of £300,000.

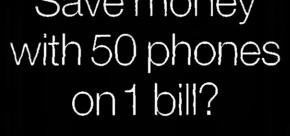
wants to upgrade its US share presence. The AIM-traded

shares are 22.25p.

t motches up another Om worth of disposals

maris gives go-aheade







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#### Some parts of Europe will be stuck with the wrong interest rates



HAMISH MCRAE ON THE LAST CHANCE FOR FINE-TUNING **CURRENCIES** 

problems and pressures tu

Yuu could say that the exchange rate mechanism (ERM) currency realignment at the weekend was simply a bit of finetuning ahead of the supposedcurrencies of the candidates for Economic and Monetary Union in May. Taken in isolasense. The Greek drachma would have needed to be devalued if it were to become a credible member of the ERM club, given its weak record as a curreocy over the tast couple of join the ERM had been taken, points on the effective exchange the only way of establishing a central rate which would stick was to give it a bit of margin over the current market view and the 15 per cent devaluation seemed plausible enough.

In the case of the Irish pound, all that was done was to rates - not enough, but a move validate the market's view - the new central rate in the ERM, a revaluation of 3 per cent, is much closer to the rate the markets had independently deemed appropriate. It fits in, too, with the need to find some way of checking the booming Irish economy.

Of course in the short term it doesn't actually change any-

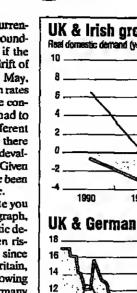
within the ERM if the currency is already within the boundaries of the system. But if the market rate were well adrift of the central rate come May. when the euro conversion rates are to be determined, the conversion rate would have bad to have been comptetely different from the central rate, or there would have had to be a devaluation of the Irish pound. Given the boom, that would have been completely inappropriate.

Just how inappropriate you can see from the top graph, which shows how domestic demand in Ireland has been rising at above 6 per cent since 1994 - higher even that Britain, which in turn has been growing faster than France or Germany every year since theo. True, there was plenty of slack in the TIDYING UP or a taste of the ecoonmy then (and there is still slack in the labour market now). but if there had been a devaluation there would have had to have been either an offsetting tightening of fiscal policy or

higher interest rates. The first would have faced ly irrevocable decision on the obvious political objections. and the latter would have been impossible in the one-size-fitsall European interest rates that tion the realignment was a are the integral part of the sinstraightfurward bit of common gle curreocy. In practice members of the euro-club will not be able to have different interest rates after May - in fact they cannot really have them now.

Apply the four-to-one rule of thumb that is sometimes applied decades. So once the decision to to the UK (four percentage rate are equivalent to one point on interest rates) to Ireland. The rise in the Irish exchange rate that the markets have imposed and which has now been validated has therefore been equivalent to a 0.75 rise in interest in the right direction.

But this is the second last time that it is going to be possible to make this sort of adjustment. The final opportunity will come in May - and I would, incidentally, expect another revaluation of the Irish pound then. But once conversion rate are fixed, that is it. Obvious, yes, but astonishingly the thing to change a central rate policy-makers have only just but there you are.



started to think about the consequences of this, for h has become completely clear that parts of Europe are going to have a prolonged period during which they will have the "wrong" interest rates. Slightly over-simplifying, the fringe will have rates that are tou loose and the core will have rates that are too tight.

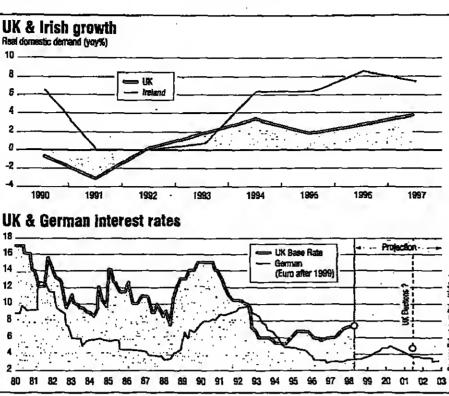
countries are going to have the wrong interest rates. In what ways will this matter? I suppose the starting point would be to say that we have had situations when countries have had the wrong rates in the

Think about it. We know that

past either because goveroments (which used to fix shortterm interest rates in those not-at-all-distant days when they told central banks what to do) made mistakes. Here in Britain we had too

low rates in 1986 and 1987 (see bottom graph) when we were shadowing the mark; then too high in 1990-91 when sterling was part of the ERM. With hindsight it was pretty stoopid to have lower rates in the late 1980s boom than in the early 1990s recession

Interest Rates



It is also true that you can have wrong rates for different parts of the country and even for different parts of the economy. At the moment we have interest rates that are more-or-less rope to boom and the core to appropriate for the South of England but are too high for the of the trends for most of the Eu-North. We prohably have too low rates for parts of the services sector, which is booming, and too high for manufacturing.

where output is currently

So even if you do run your no guarantee you will get it right. The problem, I suppose is that if someone else runs it (ie the European Central Bank in Frankfurt) you are guaranthe curo club will find that sometimes monetary policy will loose. And there will be noth-

ing they can do about it. The result will be that other policies will have to carry much more of the burden. To some extent economies are self-adjustopportunities, those who are left have become much less effective.

costs in booming areas rise and start to choke off the excess demand. Expect over the next four

or five years the fringes of Eu-

decline, an interesting reversal

ropean Union's history. But there are limits to selfadjustment, particularly within Europe where cross-border migration is still quite limited. Much of the burden will in practice fall on fiscal policy - or so own monetary policy you have it is fashionable among economists to claim.

I have a problem here. I'm not sure that fiscal policy works very well any more. Governments cut taxes but instead of teed to have the wrong policy spending the money voters save at various times. Members of it, as in Japan. Governments raise taxes, as they have done here, but we bound on regardbe too tight; sometimes too less. We ran an enormous fiscal deficit in the early 1990s but the recovery did not come till they cut interest rates and let the currency go. The one-size-fits-all monetary policy puts an additional burden on fiscal policy just ing: people move to better job at the time when it appears to

Liffe Financial Futures

#### PEOPLE & BUSINESS

IOHN WILLCOCK



THE FALL-OUT from the "merger" between SBC and UBS continued yesterday with nearly a score of UBS people getting jobs at two rival investment banks.

Panmure Gordon snapped up a dozen UBS staff, mostly equity traders, led by Richard Hine and Colin Grimwood. Panmure's head of trading Steven Dalby also recruited two senior Institutiuoal salesmen. Gordan Richards and Michael Hoffmann.

On the same day Nat West Securities, the European equities arm of Nat West Markets. hired seven analysts from UBS, including Richard Hannah and Matthew O'Keeffe, who have been ranked number one and number two transport analysts respectively for the post five years. Nat West also hired two analysts and two corporate brokers from other banks.

But the journey for the ex-UBS people won't end there. These individuals recruited by Nat West "will be part of the European cash equities husinesses being sold to Bankers Trust", according to the hank. The sale should be completed during the second quarter of this year.

The other UBS refugees are Andrew Beale, who analyses telecoms companies. Ian . Turner, who covers the UK electricity sector, Richard Franklin on specialist sates for utilities, and Barry Haddon on media.

NatWest has also hired Christian Stark from UBS in Switzerland to research mediumsized Swiss companies. Lesley Watkins and Nicola Stevens join Nat West in the UK from UBS's corporate broking side. And finally Tim Owen joins from HSBC James Capel as a food manufacturing analyst, and Marc Duschenes recently joined from BZW to work on UK food retail research.

PROPERTY agents Harman Healy are putting an interesting site up for sale in their next auction on 1 April. The 181-acre site in Greenwich, London, contains "a temporary structure currently under construction for use as an exhibition hall."

The firm, quoted in Estates Gazette magazine, says possible future uses for the hall include "storage of white elephants, a red

herring pickling plant, a 'poppadome' factory or a retirement home for ex-Cabinet ministers." Harman Healy says the property is let to a Mr P Mandelson on a short lease ending in December 2001.

prugs trial hadow on Jonathan Radgick, Harman Healy's auctioneer, says the last time the firm held an auction on I April was roughly 10 years ago, when Ronald Rengan was President, "We put the White House in our catalogue, with R Reagan on a regulated tenancy." They got a few requests for more infurmation back then, and Mr Radgick woutdn't be surprised if they got some enquiries about the dome this April.

To mark their last April Fool's Day spoof they baked a huge cake in the shape of the White House and auctioned it off fur charity. "Unfortunately the dome isn't very conducive to cakes," said Mr Radgick, "It's the pylons, So this time we've written to the Millennium Dome Experience Company asking for a couple of free guided tuurs around the dome."

The catalogue catry for the dome site concludes with a caution, a particularly suitable one in the week of the Budget speech: "Purchasers are warned that the register of contaminated land contains records of high tevels of natural gases in connection with the site, much uf which emanates from the Westminster area."

YESTERDAY'S press conference for Pearson's results kicked off with a corporate video featuring Richard Lambert, editor of the Financial Times, appearing as a talking head on several American TV shows. Mr Lambert is of course spearheading the FT's expansion in the US from their offices in New York.

After the video finished. Marjorie Scarding, chief executive of Pearson, wryly remarked that it showed that Pearson had speot £100m "making Richard Lambert a TV star". When a journalist asked whether FT Television would launch another channel in order to capitalise un Mr Lambert's obvious broadcasting talents. Ms Scardino declared: What a horrible thought."

She then followed up: "No. We can make much more money hiring him out to all the other channels."

SAM JAFFA, senior spokesperson for Price Waterbouse, has had a spot of bother with his book, Safe as Houses, a short history of financial scandals published a year ago.

The affahle Mr Jaffa admits: "The publishers, Robson Books, lold me that the phrase 'safe as houses' doesn't mean anything to Americans, So the purperback version of the book is going to be called Great Financial Scandals.

That's more like it. Although you would have thought Mr Jaffa, who spent Iwo years in the US as a BBC correspondent, would have been more au fait with American use of English, "Obviously I didn't spend long enough," admits the ever- modest author.

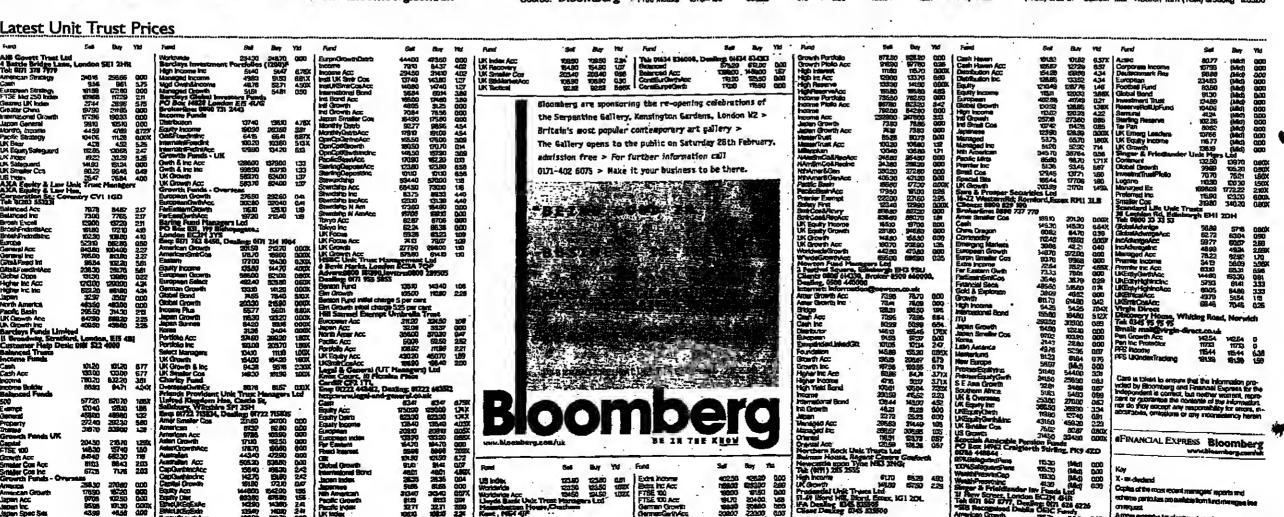
J SAINSBURY has appointed Sir George Bull, the chairman of Diageo and former group chief executive of Grand Metropolitan, as deputy chairman with effect from April 20.

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#### Drugs trial casts shadow on world

In Berlin, former East Germans whose doping skills created a medal machine go on trial this week. Imre Karacs, in Bonn, says the repercussions will be felt far beyond the Federal Republic

THE spotlight is about to fall against the decadent West, the sections of 10 other clubs will on the dark secrets of East Germany's phenomenal sport- For the cadre who stand accused ing achievements. Nearly a decade after the collapse of the Berlin Wall, the first indictments are ready, and the vanguard of those who relied on drugs to enhance sporting achievement will go on trial in the fortress-like courthouse of Berlin's Moabit district.

Four swimming coaches and two doctors stand accused of trial tomorrow, had all worked inflicting grievous bodily harm on athletes, but this is only the beginning. A team of 60 special prosecutors bas spent the past few years sifting through captured files of the Stasi secret police. Their list of suspects

currently runs to 680 names. They are the coaches, doctors, physics and chib officials who had turned East Germany into the most prolific medal-

machine in history. That those unbeatable beptathletes did not get their biceps just from the weight training was already obvious, but the investigation has revealed far more widespread and systematic doping than was ever suspected. At the latest count, some 2,000 athletes had at one time been on performance-enhancing drugs.

When the trials are over, record books may have to be rased. The prosecutors will try to protect the identities of the victims - the athletes who simply could not lose against their feeble Western opponents. But many will be found out, and their cheating - often unwitting - will reverberate around the

real scandal is yet to emerge. of relying on drugs to make the GDR great were immediately . and the most successful. hired by the former enemy, and have been minting gold for their new masters ever since. Most of the 680 remain in employment, in Germany and many other countries of the

The first batch, who go on

for the swimming section of Dynamo Berlin, the Stasi's very own club. The most prominent of them, Dieter Lindemann, was coaching Franziska van Almsick until very recently. Rolf Gläser, another accused, was working as swimming coach in Austria when he was charged. Volker Rischke also remained in the coaching business in Germany. Only one of the four rainers accused of encouraging the use of drugs, Dieter Krause, has failed to find a job in sport.

The charge sheet names 17 athletes whose health was steroids they had been forced to take. One teenage girl grew a beard as a result of the "vitamin pills". Another developed a deep voice. The "side-effects" catalogued in the Stasi files in- and cycling. ciude bormonal imbalance, loss

libido, damage to the liver and reproductive organs, mood changes and depression. The investigators have a list of 350 athletes who still suffer from the effects of the enforced medication, and four fatalities.

The Moabit court, which had been grappling with murderous border guards by the seem that the Communist Wall and the politicians beregime had sent an army of hind the trigger, has its work cut doped-up beefcakes into battle out, After this case, swimming Dagmar Hase, is also in dan-

be processed. Women's swimming was the most methodically drugged East German sport

Most of the athletes involved are dreading their moment of fleeting fame, but some can hardly wait. Rica Reinisch, three-times Olympic swimming gold medallist, is one of the few to publicly denounce their tormentors.

"I was 14 when my coach, Uwe Neumann, first handed over the blue pills," she recalled in a magazine interview last year. "He said: 'Come, little girl, swallow these vitamins. You'll recover better.' Today, the same Mr Neumann works at the Olympic training centre in Leipzig Hans-Joachim Wendler, another who is accused of propagating performance-enhancing drugs, also works as a doctor at the Olympic centre in Berlin."

May be not for much longer. These gentlemen are now helping Berlin prosecutors with their inquiries. Cases are destroyed by the anabolic also being put together against other perpetrators in different sports. When the court is finished with swimming, it will turn to athletics, followed by rowing, canoeing, weightlifting

Did not the East Germans

do well in these sports? And

are not the unified Germans still performing amazingly well in the same disciplines? Perhaps it is a mere coincidence, but the leading German athletes today tend to have East German coaches, many of whom are on the list of 680. Among the suspects are a former doctor of last year's Tour de France winner, Jan Ullrich. The Olympic champion,



Clean sweep: The former coach of Franziska van Almsick is among those facing doping charges

ger of losing ber coach, Bernd Henneberg, who used to train another former swimming star, Kristin Otto.

In women's swimming, it appears it was impossible to stay away from all the drugs. At the World Championships in Perth early this year, the Australian hosts objected to the chief of the German team, Winfried Leopold. Unlike most of his colleagues, Leopold had confessed to have known about Germany are eventually un-

doping, and served a four-year masked. For whatever might being returned, inquiries are suspension after the fall of the Wall. The German authorities backed him in the dispute with the Australians and won, though mainly because the focus suddenly - and memorably shifted to the cootents of a

The incident, oevertheless, gave a foretaste of further embarrassment when other trainers manufacturing medals for

Chinese suitcase.

have been the failings of East Germany, their coaches are reputed to be the best in the world. No German club can afford to shun their services, skeletons are rattling in cupand many of them are going to boards in the West. extraordinary lengths to protect their new employees.

complain of lack of co-operation, oot only from the clubs but also from national federations. Questionnaires are not pointed.

blocked in high places. Sport,

it appears, simply does oot

want to know what went on in the East, because too many Life would be so much sim-

pler if everyooe would forget The Berlin investigators about the past. The world of sport in Germany is rooting for an uneventful trial io Berlin, but it is likely to be disap-

#### Rise for Rusedski despite defeat

Tennis

DESPITE losing to Chile's Marcelo Rios in the final of the ATP Champions' Cup in Indian Wells, Greg Rusedski, the British No 1, is pleased with his start to the new season.

"It has been a positive start tn the season so far. I was just one match from getting into the top three in the world and it puts me into striking distance of the

"I'm only a few points behind them so it's a positive thing. If I have a good week I can actually move into the top three."

Although be lost 6-3, 6-7, 7-6, 6-4 on Sunday, Rusedski managed to climb a place, to five, in the rankings, but his British compatriot Tim Henman dropped from 19 to 20.

Henman, who lost in the first round, slipped a place because Austrian Thumas Muster reached the semi-finals of the same tournament. Muster rose from 21 to 17.

Meanwhile Rusedski and Henman will lead the British challenge in the Davis Cup tie against Ukraine in the Euro/African Zone Group Onc at Newcastle from 3 to 5 April. David Lloyd, the British cap-

tain, has nominated five players
- Rusedski, Henman, Andrew Richardson, Neil Broad and Arvind Parmar - from whom the final team of four will be chosen. Parmar, the 19-year-old

Hertfordshire prospect, is likely to stand down but he will have useful experience with the squad.

Lloyd also has to decide whether to play Rusedski and Henman in the doubles as well as the singles. Broad is a doubles specialist but may not be chosen if the tie is close.

Britain met Ukraine in Kiev last July and only woo 3-2 after Rusedski and Herman had both lost to Andrei Medvedev.

#### PHILIPS



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Today we publish the updated results of The Independent Fantasy Football League. The league table includes all scores up to February 8th. The player list includes scores finals in France this summer.

Every time one of your players score you get four points. There are four points for a keeper or a defender every time their team keeps a clean sheet. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e.: if there is a one goal difference in the scoreline, the playfrom all games played until March 15th. Nei- er scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded 1 ther set of scores includes results from the FA books point awarded in addition to standard goal related points. Cup. The overall winner at the end of the sea- Each successful Assist, a pass judged by our experts to lead son will win a pair of tickets to the World Cup directly to a goal, will give a player 3 points. The opinion of every Tuesday in The Independent and repeate finals in France this summer.

our experts on the matter is final. Each player selected and lowing Sunday in the Independent on Sunday. starting a game will be awarded one point.

If a player is given a Yellow Card they lose 1 point, if a player is given a Red Card they lose 3 points. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count.

The Premiership Manager that you choose will be awarded 3 points if their real-life team wins, 1 point is awarded if they draw and no points are given if they lose.

Updated player scores and league tables will be published every Tuesday in The Independent and repeated the fol-



#### **Independent Fantasy Football**

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#### Reformed Parlour wins England reward

By Glenn Moore Football Correspondent

FACED with the need to break the monotony of a pre-match training camp, many a manager has resorted to taking his players to the cinema. Scotland's Craig Brown memorably did so

with "Braveheart". Should Glenn Hoddle decide to follow suit during England's sojnum at Bisham Abbey next weekend there can be only one chnice, "Good Will Hunting". The story of a wayward talent who reforms and flourishes just as it appears he is to waste his life's potential should strike as coigne, who has completed 90 much a chord with England as

Mel Gibson did with the Scots. Yesterday Hoddle, who relishes the Rohin Williams role of was still doing only light jogging.

guiding mentor, rewarded the latest penitent when he called up Ray Parlour for the 25 March friendly with Switzerland. The Arsenal midfielder is joined by former drinking partner and team-mate Paul Merson who, having played well for the B team last month, is expected to start the Berne friendly.

Tony Adams is also aboard, hut one bad hoy turned good (most of the time, anyway) is missing, Paul Gascoigne. This, Hoddle stressed, is because he is injured, not as a result of fresh allegations of assault which the player streouously denies. Gasminutes only nace in 1998, spoke to Hoddle yesterday

playing again, but I told him the tabloids for a notorious "booze- good example to people. There important thing was not to come back too early, as he has done point came when he was ar- they got their mind and body in the past, and get another problem," Hoddle said. "I think he was pleased to bear that." Gascoigne has been the subject of recent transfer speculation hut Hoddle said he did not mind who he played for as long

as he was playing regularly. Parlour, whose bright performance in the recent B international against Chile was typical of his impressive season, looked an exciting talent when he first broke into the Arsenal team six seasons ago, but the restrictions placed on his game by George Graham and an overmorning and told him that he enthusiastic social life ham-

rested in Hong Kong for drunkenly assaulting a taxi driver on could achieve?" an end-of-season tour.

However, spurred by the examples of Merson and Adams, and by fatherhood, he has cleaned up his behaviour. This, together with the advect of Arsène Wenger at Highhury, has enabted him to become a key member of the Double-chasing side, with his penetrative running on the right flank halancing Marc Overmars on the Arsenal left.

"A lot of his habits have changed in the last 18 months," Hoddle said. "With his impered his development. Having proved fitness he has put on a can play in the latter match and

and-birds" escapade his lowest are so many other players, if right, who knows what they

> One who has is Merson -"an amazing story which gives you heart," Hnddle said. "He has put it right, he is a changed person and player and he is getting the rewards. Sometimes you have to reach the bottom before you can rise."

> Hoddle pointedly said that Merson's inclusion "showed how important the B match was". As expected, Chris Sutton. who refused to play in that game, has been omitted from both senior and Under-21 squads. Five over-age players

knapp as a sweeper.

There is one other uncapped player in the scalor party, Kevin he is a useful keeper, his inclusion is indicative of the dearth of English No 1s in the Premiership. The only other options for Hoddle were David Watson of Barnsley. Crystal Palace's Kevin Miller, or 40-year-old Steve Ogrizovic of Coventry.

The 26-man squad is expected to be significantly reduced by withdrawals, notably from Manchester United, who have seven representatives, following this week's European and FA Cup games.

Switzerland have picked two English-based players, Black-

"He was desperate to start featured, with Adams, in the yard of pace. He has become a they will include Jamie Red-burn's Stephane Henchoz and Ramon Vega of Tottenham. The first squad picked by new manager Gilbert Gress also includes Pressman, the Sheffield Stephane Chapuisat, Ciriaco Wednesday goalkeeper. While Sforza and Kubilay Türkyilmaz.

#### Maine line to nowhere for Lee

Manchester City's latest casualty was supposed to be the club's saviour, writes Guy Hodgson

THERE have been many reasons to feel embarrassed to be a Manchester City supporter in recent seasons but the biggest, surely, is that there was once a fans' movement by the name of "Forward With Franny". From the moment Francis Lee became chairman at Maine Road the direction, unerringly, was backwards.

ngland fo delay so

When he announced his resignation yesterday, a little over four years since flight BA254 brought him from Antigua to the City boardroom. Lee said he went with his character intact, which shows how power can delude even as it ebbs to nothing. A man worshipped as a player (t12 goals in 249 League appearances) had become the chairman who was openly despised. BA, as in had to awful.

"While I wish Joe Royle well in a task equivalent to nailing jelly to the ceiling," one supporter wrote recently to The Pink, Manchester's Saturday sports paper, "he should be on his guard as long as Franny Luc is in charge. City fans are entitle to suggest the problems go much further than poor team spirit. Was Frank Clark ever in charge?" Or Brian Horton, or Steve Coppell, or Alan Ball ... the list of managers under Lee was an embarrassment, seven in all. And yet things just got worse. In Peter Swales' last three full seasons, City finished fifth, fifth and ninth in the top division. In Lee's seasons the story was 18th in the Premiership, relegation and 14th in the First Division, Today they are in the relegation places and the new board could soon be trying to extricate themselves from the Second Division.

Lee arrived as a messiah, but one without the means to work miracles as, from the start, the problem appears to have been money. A wealthy man by most standards, be does not have the resources of a Jack Walker and simply could not find the cash or the backers to turn around a poorly managed club with delusions of matching Manehester United. At yesterday's press conference, the new chairman, David Bernstein, said City had been "undercapitalised and overborrowed" for years.

Looking through Lee's pronouncements, they suggest he had no idea of the depth of the problems when he took over in February 1994. Two weeks later he said: "This will be the happiest club in the land. The players will be the best paid and we'll drink plenty of champagne, celebrate and sing until we're hoarse."

He was right about one thing: fans got hoarse shouting abuse. His reign was marked by departing players rather than stability and you could build a fine team round Tony Coton, Terry Phelan, Keith Curle, Niall Quinn, Garry Flitcroft and Steve Lomas. The replacements, Georgi Kinkladze apart, have not been as good and the club has more than 55 professionals, an indictment of the buying policy.

The indication was that, for all the fine words, City were far deeper in the red than Lee had imagined and he did not have the resources to do anything about it. He had to sell to ease the wage burden.

There was also, as the above letter exposed, a suspicion that Lee tried to manage the team as well as run the club. It was something he vigorously denied. saying the only matter he had an input on was transfers. "There's a lot of money involved these days and it would surprise me if any big clubs depend solely on

The quick departure after 33 days of Steve Coppell, who claimed he quit because of a mental breakdown, was never properly explained, however, and supporters have always believed it was because Lee was interfering.

#### Whole new eye-ball game for Collymore

By Phil Shaw

searching for signs of trepida- tentially explosive contest. tion or anticipation, before Villa's season.

intense in the case of Stan Collymore, who scored twice against Liverpool in Gregory's first match as manager, hut has not Atletico in the first leg of their Uefa Cup quarter-final,

jury sustained during Saturday's mance to win by two goals. win over Crystal Palace. Both are vying for a place alongside Dwight Yorke, whose inclusion is assured, and possibly Savo Milosevic, who scored twice ugainst Palace without particu- to nick one." larly impressing Gregory.

The likelihood is that Villa will turn to Collymore, perhaps der Raddy Antic, who is an keeping Milosevic in reserve, arch exponent of counter-atwith Joachim a candidate for a tacking football. Nevertheless, role wide on the right of mid-

JOHN GREGORY will look to be sure that certain individinto the eyes of his players, uals were prepared for a po-

"I shall make eye contact finalising his side to face Atleti- with them at training because co Madrid tonight in the match you can always read things that will make or hreak Aston from doing that," he said. "I'm one for studying carefully every The scrutiny may be especially little thing they do, to see whether they are ready for it and whether they've got fear or excitement in their eyes."

A fired-up Collymore can be played since suffering a groin in- an awesome prospect for dejury during Villa's 1-0 defeat by fenders, as Liverpool discovered. That success was one of three in Gregory's first four Pre-Collymore declared himself miership games as Brian Little's fit yesterday, while Julian successor, but he knows it will Joachim shrugged off a knee in- take an exceptional perfor-

"I don't expect us to go for the jugular from the first minute. There has to be a certain amount of caution, though I don't envisage us sitting back and trying Atletico are unbeaten in sev-

en European away marches unthey arrived in Birmingham unfield. But Gregory may well der a cloud. Their president, Je-

have had the £7m striker in sus Gil, questioned whether it mind when he said be wanted was worth turning up tonight after Saturday's 2-1 defeat by Campostella. "I am disgusted with them. A lot of the players don't care about wearing the Atletico shirt," Gil said. "We need to go out with the attitude of Aston Villa and fight for the

> The man charged with keeping emotions under control is Mario van der Ende, the Dutchman who refereed so expertly when England met Italy in Rome last October.

Ten home players and seven from Atletico start the evening knowing a yellow card would put them out of the semi-final first leg, although Villa have received unexpected encouragement in one instance.

Mark Bosnieb was cautioned for time-wasting when he sought to draw attention to his bombardment by the crowd in Madrid. Despite the absence of a formal appeals procedure, the Villa secretary, Steve Stride, wrote to Uefa, pointing out the "strange circumstances". The ruling body's disciplinary committee bave promised to examine the case



Mark Bosnich: 'I feel I've matured a lot and worked very hard at my game'

Photograph: Brendan Monks

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#### 'Potty' Bosnich in the form of his life

FROM turmoil at Aston Villa and trauma with Australia to hat-tricks by Kevin Gallacher, Ronaldo and Romario, Mark Bosnich has taken everything that this season can throw at him and emerged with his

reputation enhanced. Everything, that is, bar the proverbial kitchen sink. And after being pelted with batteries, bottles and lighters during the first leg of Villa's Uefa Cup quarter-final at Atletico Madrid, Bosnich should not be surprised to see a unit hurtling out of the

Spanish end at Villa Park tonight. The way the 26-year-old goalkeeper has been performing, he would probably catch it and bowl it to a colleague. For in spite of hugely disappointing results with club and country, Bosnich is not alone in believing that he has never played so well, so consistently.

Ron Atkinson, the manager who took him to Villa after Manchester United hrought him over as a 16-year-old, remarked of his defiance against Atletico that Bosnich "might just be the best keeper in the world' (albeit one who, in the finest traditions of the position,

was "a hit potty"). Gordon Strachan said after Coventry's FA Cup win at VIIla that one of his many fine saves, a mid-air volley after a deflection suddenly changed the trajectory of a shot, was possihly the greatest he had seen.

Oceania's footballer of the year is embarrassed by such praise, although if self-belief were a crime he would be serving life. "Touching wood, and without wishing to appear conceited, I've been very happy with my form," Bosnich says. "I feel I've matured a lot and worked very hard at my game since I got all the publicity for saving penalties a few years ago."

Amid the missiles in Madrid he was composed, brave and agile by turn. He was eventually beaten by Christian Vieri's bludgeoned penalty, which he chastised himself for reaching but not keeping out, and sensed that coach, Steve Harrison, also im- end up in a penalty shoot-out..."

احكان الاحل

Villa's goalkeeper can add to his reputation against Atletico in the Uefa Cup tonight,

Raddy Antic's side were content with a 1-0 scoreline. "I think they're confident they can score anywhere in Europe," he says. The striker who ensured

says Phil Shaw

that Atletico went one better was already known to Bosnich. "I trained with Vieri in Sydney when he was 13. His father was a legend in Italy before he came to play in Australia, There was nothing of Christian and a more uncoordinated kid is hard to imagine. Now he's strong, he pulls off defenders' shoulders hrilliantly and he's got a good understanding with Kiko. You can see the influence of Juvenhis' training on him."

Talking of the practice pitch, Bosnich was delighted by the return of the former Villa coach John Gregory as manager. much as he was saddened by the "typically unselfish" resignation of Brian Little. "Dwight [Yorke] and I are close, and we often talked about how we missed him after he left for Wycombe," he says.

"He brought something to training that was never really replaced. Now it's as if he never left. The biggest problem has been learning to call him 'Boss'.

We got used to 'Gregs'. "In Madrid, be'd been back less than a week but his positivity shone through. The vibes be brought into the dressingroom at half-time made a real difference. It was like the Alamo in the first half, but he very calmly reminded us how much better we'd looked when we kept the ball.

"He told us it wouldn't be possible for Atletico to keep going at the same pace in the second half, and be was right." Gregory's newly appointed pressed Bosnich with his tactical insights and his jester's touch. In the tense moments before the game he did his John Barnes impersonation. "He had us all in fits. We're still a young team and we thrive on light relief."

Heaven knows Villa needed

some. Tipped as possible champions, they were out of everything except Europe and the relegation doglight by the time Gregory swept in. Criticism of Little, of chairman Doug Ellis and the players, notably Stan Collymore, has been relentless. Bosnich accepts that it goes with the territory - "we're getting paid very good money," he says candidly - and tries to use it as "a positive force".

In between Villa's travails came travels with Australia. His nerveless display in Tehran before 128,000 Iranians gave Terry Venables' Socceroos a platform from which to progress to France 98. A lack of what he terms "big-game experience" prevented them from houding upon it.

"I know I could still go to maybe two World Cups, but it's really going to hit home this summer because I needed to test myself against guys like Schmeichel, Seaman, Barthez and Peruzzi. I tasted the tournament atmosphere on a smaller scale in the Confederations Cup in Saudi."

In the final, Australia lost 6-0 to Brazil a week after holding the world champions 0-0, yet Bosnich maintains that he had a better match than in Madrid. "I said to my dad: 'How can I tell people I played well when I let in six?" He said that if I'd played badly it would have been 12."

Villa are going to need positive thinking by the netfull tonight, but if all else fails Bosnich may be able to call on a favour from fate. On his way to our meeting, he stopped to help a woman whose car had broken down. "I like to think that if you do some good, it comes back to you," he explains, breaking into a laugh. "Maybe if we

the manager's opinion."

Now he is gone and although

Lee is keeping his 11 per cent shareholding in the club, it is unlikely he will be back for some H038201

#### Why the power of the Welsh Rugby Union needs to be broken



ON **RUGBY**  of this column are almost always southern England. literate, reasoned and knowl-

tellectually, clearly, a class above those who take an often fevered interest in politics.

The letter I had the other did? And why, as a corollary, the Welsh coach. did I write so much about the

I replied that I knew very edgeable. There is nothing in little about rugby in Scotland, block capitals or greeo ink; but that I had grown up in the and oo only a couple of occa- heartland of West Wales rugby, sions have I received cuttings of and had, since then, attended the column with the offending the great Anglo-Welsh fixtures passages heavily underlined. which preceded the formation Followers of rugby are in- of the leagues in England and Wales alike.

I might have added, though I did not, that I often watched Richmond, whose first-choice day was no exception. Why, the selection includes seven Welsh writer wanted to know-in the internationals. Of these, only nicest possible way - did I Alian Bateman is convently in neglect Scottish rugby as I favour with Revin Bowring.

game in Wales? My corre- course, that Beteman - the

THE letters I get from readers writing from an address in British Isles - is in but, rather, that Scott Quianell, Craig who said recently that, as the against the head are now as rare I have no doubt at all. He was, of rugby in my native land, the Quinnell and Barry Williams

Scott, the most inspirational forward since Dean Richards (even though he is a very different kind of No 8), has simply falleo out of fashion, with coaches and commentators affice. These things happen in life, for no reason that anybody. can properly isolate.

Craig is said to be "no good in the line-out." Why on earth should be be expected to be? He is not built to be good in the line out. As well, say, that Mike Tyson is not up to much in the This is a disgrace: not, of high jump, and will never ent the United States in

stronger colleagues to elevate. Against Newcastle last Saturday, in fact, Quinnell's partner, something with his time. Craig Gillies, fulfilled more or less this function, in so doing defeating Doddie Weir and

The hooker Williams has paid the price with Wales for of the props is a more natural some inaccurate throwing-in. thrower than the hooker, in On Saturday there was, as far as I could see, little wrong with this aspect of his game. In any case, this addition to the

Garath Archer on several oc-

laws had been changed to allow as snowflakes in the Riviera - I think, discarded too soon by lifting, it surely made sense to a development assisted by refemploy at least one athletic, erees reluctance to penalise flarelatively light forward for his grantly crooked feeds - it is, I suppose, arguable that the hooker should be asked to do

> The difficulty is that throwing a ball accurately or, sometimes, at all, is not something everyone can do. It is incorrect to say that it is simply a matter of practice. It may be that one which case he should be assigned the task instead.

This brings me to John that particular athletic activity. hooker's duties is burdensome. ities I am ignorant. But of playing for an English club.

It was Willie-John McBride Then again, since strikes whose strength as a tight head the Welsh selectors.

The same goes for Adrian Davies, who gave an immaculate performance against Newcastle. If his place-kicking had been as polished as his play generally, Richmond would have piled up well over 40 points.

In my opinion, the only Richmond Welsh player who is kept out of the Weish side because of the positive merits of someone else is Andy Moore who, good as he is, is no Roh Howley. The rest, Bateman excepted, are penalised not because they are inferior to the present occupants, Davies, of whose throwing abil- but because they happen to be

more strongly I feel that what now needs to be done is to break the power of the Weish Rugby Union. Cardiff are already threateoing to leave to ioin the English League. I hope they do, and that the other principal clubs will follow their

There is little purpose in waiting for the formation of an Anglo-Welsh League, partly because the problems of promotion and relegation are intractable. It would be better for the clubs to take the initiative themselves and to play in England. Just as Cardiff City and Swansea City do as members uf

#### **England forced** to delay squad

Rugby Union

By Chris Hewett

NOT EVEN Cliff Brittle could conceivably deny that the Allied Dunbar Premiership tightened its grip on England's rugby consciousness at the weekend as the long-time leaders, Saracens and Newcastle, suffered nervous breakdowns of almost identical magnitude, Unfortunately, the campaign is also proving murderously exacting in the physical sense and the fallput has forced the England nierarchy to delay naming their side for this Sunday's Calcutta Cup match with Scotland.

The oational coach, Clive Woodward, will oow reveal all tomorrow morning, 24 hours behind schedule. His major concerns include two of his three specialist wings, David Rees and Tony Uoderwood, both of whom pranged themselves during their uncompromising Premiership eocounters oo

To make matters worse, scrum-half, and Neil Back. dispensable on the open-side flank, are still suffering from shoulder trouble and flu-type symptoms respectively.

hitch in selectorial planning, in the week. The party shows there were a number of hints and murmurs surrounding Woodward's current thinking in circulation yesterday. Jon Wilkinson, Newcastle's teenage second-string stand-off, will definitely travel to Murrayfield and the coach has not yet ruled rated cog in the Northampton out awarding him his first cap back row, steps up for the vetat 18 years and 301 days. "I eran Ian Smith.

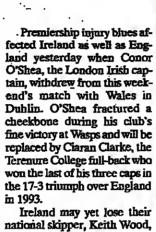
might send him out for the kickoff," the coach admitted.

"The reports we're getting from the Under-21 coaches is that Jon is an outstanding talent and I think he's ready to play for England now. I'm not interested in the word 'pressure'. Ability overcomes that. I believe it is better to start with a player, with the option of bringing him off if necessary, rather than sit there wondering exactly when to put him on." A clear signal indeed. However, it would be indescribably cruel to jettison Paul Grayson after his faultless goal-kicking performance against Wales just over

There is also a need to restructure the back row in the . light of Richard Hill's long-term absence and John Mitchell, the forward specialist oo the England coaching panel, suggested yesterday that there might be "ooe or two surprises".

Woodward watched Dean To make matters worse, during Newcastle's misuccess—only utterance came from Brit-Kyran Bracken, the first-choice ful raid on Richmond at the tle, the Rugby Football Union Tony Diprose and Tim Rodber for the vacant No 8 position is too close to call. Scotland, meanwhile, will

> two changes from the ooe that succumbed to the Welsh at Wembley: Hugh Gilmour of Heriot's replaces Rowen Shepherd as the deputy full-back while Budge Pountney, for so long an unsung and under-



into the bargain; the celebrated Lions hooker was suffering from a fin-type virus yesterday and the selectors have called Allen Clarke of Northampton into the party. If Wood is forced to give best to the snuffles, Clarke will sit on the bench as understudy to Ross Nesdale of Newcastle. Thankfully, it was all quiet

on the political front; the armed forces circling Twickenham ap-Ryan, the abrasive three-cap peared to have run out of amwonder from the early 1990s, munition momentarily. The who claimed his now infamous "people are oot interested in club rugby" remark had been taken out of cootext. "I made Despite the unexpected select from a 22-man squad later it in relation to the value of club rugby to television," he said. Yugby to television," he said.
SCOTLAND SQUAD (v Empland, Murrayfield, 22 March); Becker & Armstrong (Norcestle, capt), C Chaimers (Melicos), H Glissour (Harioth FP), O Lee (London Spotish), S Longstenf (Undee High School FP), C Murray (Hawick), A Bito (Beth), T Stanger (Hawick), A Bito (Hawick), A Total (Nercestle), G Townsend (Northampton), Forwards: G Bulloch (West of Scotland), O Cronin (Waspe), G Stills (Currie), G Graham (Nescestle), S Grimes (Notionians), D Hitton (Beth), E Peters (Beth), B Pounting (Northampton), A Hodburgh (Kelso), M Stewart (Northampton), R Weinweight (Dundee High School FP), O Weir (Nowcastle).



Colin Montgomerie grimaces at a missed putt in the final round of the Honda Classic in Florida, He finished five shots behind the winner on Sunday, Mark Calcavecchia

#### Eagles eye a Wembley first

Rugby League

By Dave Hadfield

THE two sides from outside the game's heartland, the Sheffield Eagles and London Broncos, have been drawn apart in the lenge Cup, keeping alive the possibility of the most unfamiliar looking final in Wembley

. Sheffield will meet Salford in one semi, with London facing the favourites, Wigan, in the Helens in the last round has started a rush for Wembley tickets, but the League is confident that even a final between two clubs without long tradition or large fan bases would be a major draw.

"We would have to work a

little harder," said a League spokesman, Peter Rowe. "But it would be a chance for people from the two cities who have not watched the two clubs regularly to enjoy Wembley." Sheffield are likely to he

without their centre, Keith Sehas been told that he must appear before the disciplinary committee on Thursday, accused of punching Castleford's Barrie-Jon Mather during their victory there in the last round. Oldham are to lodge a forother. Wigan's victory over St mal protest with the League about Bramley's unique twinning arrangement with Super League's Leeds, claiming the arrangement affords an "unfair advantage" over other Second Division clubs. SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP Serol-fine draw: Shaffield v Salford; London v Wiger Ties to be played on 28 and 29 March.

#### Cricket: Fifth Test

#### Kensington Oval delights in grand spectacle of rolling and bowling

three small padded garden

By Henry Biofeld

IF THEY had been his invention, Heath Robinson would have been immensely proud of the covering arrangements at

About 15 huge tarpaulins were pulled on and off the pitch, the square and the bowlers' run-ups, as the first serious rain to hit Barbados for one's hopes on this last day.

rollers, each pushed by one man, sopped up the water lying on the tarpaulins. They had just finished the job when it rained again and so the rollers had to re-sop. The problem was that the

only receptacles for the water collected by the rollers were two small metal wheelbarrows. Each roller had to be lifted up by two three months frustrated every- meo and emptied into one of them. The inevitable result was

#### Psychological points go to the tourists

ENGLAND brought their supporters with them to Barbados ciplined of late that they have in their thousands. At precisely the moment it was least wanted, their weather arrived to join them.

The rain and the Mancunian grey skies that greeted them when they awoke yesterday and persisted throughout the day lowed the delayed start, it had also completely erased whatever Indies harboured and committhe draw to protect their lead. In the end, it spoiled the par-

ty for everyooe and left England in the frustrating situation that even if they win the final Test in Antigua they can only share the spoils.

Yet when play finally did get under way, an England win - or more to the point, a West Indian

loss - was oot out of the question. The West Indies batting has been so hrittle and undisrepeatedly failed to last the day's allotment of 90 overs. Ten times in their past eight Tests they have been dismissed in less than 75 overs, including three times in this series.

Here, England have secured all the psychological points, an just about elimioated any encouraging prelude to the depress for the result that would that too much is read into such later interruptions that fol-time one side has seemingly taken the high ground - the West Indies after their hard-fought trislim hopes of victory the West umph in the first Trinidad Test and their massive win in Guyana, ted them to simply batting for England following their tense riposte in Trinidad - the other has come right back to reclaim it.

If Sir Gary Sobers' assessmeot that these are two poor teams is a little harsh, it is not far from the mark. They are certainly very evenly matched. It is the mentally tougher who will prevail in Antigua, a match miserably again on Sunday

When it eventually stopped, that half the water was spilled back on to the tarpaulins.

Then, when the rain stopped again and the sopping-up was completed, each cover had to be pulled away by an army of chaps in hright yellow raincoats. They were pulled off folded double so that any remaining water could be ditched well away from the pitch.

Ooce this was done, the cover was brought back to its original position where a complicated folding process was carried out. Theo, with due ceremony, the long sausage which it had formed was dragged to the boundary where it waited for the rain to restart. Then we went through it all over again.

It provided grand cotertainment if you like that sort of thing. In the Test Match Special radio box we regretted that John Arlott is no longer among those present because he would have loved it and his description of the toings and froings would have been infinitely memorable.

Of course it was sad that such a wonderfully poised match should have been ruined by rain. It is not often that a Test chance their bowlers had to cisive Antigua Test, Yet it may be comes into the last day when all three results are possible.

match by the West Indies openers, Claytoo Lambert and Philo Wallace, had left the locals happy with the thought that the West Indies were about to make the highest score they would ever have made in the fourth innings to win a Test match.

Lambert and Wallace again showed up the inconsistency of Dean Headley and Andy Caddick. They bowled atrociously last Friday evening, splendidly on Saturday afternoon, and that promises to be a cracker. evening. It is inexplicable.

SUMMO
SPRING GRAND TOURNAMENT (Osaks)
Nieth day (of 15): Assnownia (won 6, lost 3)
by Kitskachklohl (4-6): Assnownia (won 6, lost 3)
by Kitskachklohl (4-6): Assnownia (5-6) bit (Sornoth (5-6) bit (Sornot

NEWSWEEK MEN'S CHAMPIONS' CUP (Indian Wells, Calif) Stogles, final: M Rics (Chie) bt G Puneded (GB) 6-3 6-7 7-6 6-4 COPENHAGEN MEN'S TOURNAMENT Final: M Gustaisson (Swe) bt D Princell (Ger) 3-6 6-1

#### Sporting Digest

#### Play-offs take on new format

ice hockey

THE Superleague play-off semifinals take on an American-style best-of-three formst for this of their previous two meetings. season, but not the final itself. Ayr Scottish Eagles and

groups and have home advan- straight play-off championship tage in the first game and the Storm and Sheffield Steelers respectively.

Ayr will start favourites as they aim to complete the grand slam of all four major domestic trophies, but will not have it

all their own way against a

Storm side who have won both

Steelers, meanwhile, are in their fifth successive semi-final Cardiff Devils both topped their and aiming for their fourth success, but first face a repeat third, should it be required, for of last season's last-four contheir matches with Manchester frontation with Cardiff, which

Was then a one-off game.

SUPERLEAGUE SEM-FINALS: 18 Nurch
Ayr Sootish Engles v Munchester Storm
(1800); Carditt Devis v Sheffledt Siseles
(1800); 21 Nurch: Menchester v Ayr (1830);
Sheffield v Carditt (1830), Game three (if recutted); 22 March: Aur v Manchester

SNOW REPORTS

AROUND THE RESORTS

Basketball

**Bowls** 

NEIA: Litah 109 Detroit 98; Marril 79 Orlando 78; Adente 98 Boston 77; L. A. Laisen 119 Vancou-ver 10; Haldens 81 New York 98; Tovario 200 Gub-en State 98 Apr; Phornix 100 Delles 90; Portland 103 L.A. Chanets 92.

Browls

BRITISH WOMEN'S INDOOR CHAMPICNSHIPS (Destington) Pairs, semi-families
Southend (E Hard and C Michinoth) bi England
(5 Mart and J Thomas) 28-25, white auto england
(5 Mart and J Thomas) 28-25, white auto england
(6 Mart and J Thomas) 28-25, white auto england
(6 Marchard 28-22, Traipes, stand-insist England (6 Hubbard, D Rose and D Misr)
ti Southand (6 Hong, M Devise and B Thomas) 25-15; White (6 King, M Devise and D Roselends) bit lealand (6 Shoranon, A Ellott and J Multiland) 25-25, Fours, semi-finals: Waites (9 Summarfield, 9 Sough, 1 Devise and B Morgan) bit
Southand (8 Rodger, J MeCall, S Smeal and M
McLaen) 25-9; England (9 Massissy, A Almond,
K Harese and S Lades) bit lealand (6 Ball, E Johnston, N Hantis, I Evens) 25-18, Singles, semifamilia: C Modelland (600) bit J Devise (948) 21-15;
M Johnston (8) bit N Staw (Eng) 21-5.

Spencer Oliver defends his Euro-peen super-bentamweight title against the Ukrainian Sergel Devakov on 2 May at the Albert Hall, London, which has

Cricket ENGLAND UNDER-21 SQUAD (Includ

156, H H Streek 55, Wager Younis 5-1
ANUSTAN — Fiest Investigation
(Overright: 77 for 1)
AB Nacyl C Campbell b Mbangwa...
152 Armad c A Flower b Mbangwa...
152 Armad b Mbangwa...
153 Armad b Mbangwa...
155 Armad b Mbangw

W Goodwin, M Mittingwe. Bowling (to date): Weger Younis 4-3-2-0; Shoeth Africa 35-1-8-2. Umplines: I D Robinson and D R Shepherd. umpures: 1D Hooseon and DR Shepherd.
TOUR MATCH (Past, SA; final day of times);
Bolgad 178 and 160 for 7 dec (J M Handerson 61; M Munisheran 5-30); Sid Lanks 213 for 4 dec (R B Mahacama 82; H P Tillakeraine 52no) and 48 for 5. Mahach Assaula.

(ii) 6hr 56ain 52ac; 2 F Johar (3wit) +2sec; 3 F Ballerini (ii) +86. Overall: 1 R Jeannann (3wit) 28hr 24min 15ac; 2 F Ballerini (ii) +4sec; 3 J Happner (3en) +5; 4 R Somreson (Dan) + 13min 15ac; 5 Z Spruch (Pol) +12:22 Football

ENGLAND LINDER-21 SQUAD (Inclinding five over-age players v Sertizerlend, Asrau, 24 Marchi; Halson (Newcaste), Wright (Dowlor), Mettee (Liverpool), Dyer (pawich), Curtis (Man Und, Hollower) (Suriterized), Williams (Sundarford), Consiste (Cutterized), Hecketo, (Coveniry), Carragher (Liverpool), Heakey (Cutterized), Handardy (Coveniry), Carragher (Liverpool), Lampert (West Ham), Surpoy (Licestor), James (C Palace), Haghes (Arswel), Hendrie (A Villa), ENGLAND (WEST Linder-18 Intermediary Championship, Stockport, 25 Marchi; Stetonesser (Immremel), Robinson, Woodgata, Mettheses, Smith (all

US LPGA CIRCLE K CHAMPIONSHIP (Tuo-non, Arbura) Lending finel-round scores (US unless stated): 274 H Afradason (Sue) 68 64 70 72 275 L Neumann (Sue) 71 68 70 89; C Durmarn 70 68 88 69 276 D Popper 70 57 69 70; C Johnson 69 67 67 73 277 D Andraws 71 71 68 67; C Figg-Qurler 70 70 70 67; A Frah-win 73 68 67 68; R Johnes 71 68 69 69; L Kanse 70 68 69 70; C Sonerstam (Sue) 68 67 71 70. 278 8 Podmen 73 68 70 67; H Stacy 89 72 68 69; K Sauer 70 68 70 69; M Durn 71 67 68 71; S Meism (nct) 67 72 70 69; K Webb (Aug) 67 70 72 69; T Green 73 67 69 72; N Lopez 72 68 68 70; B Burlon 70 69 69 71 Sale K Marshall (SS) 71 70 73 72 281 8 Strutiwick, (GB) 71 72 70 78

ice hockey Motor racing

MODOF Faccing
GRAND PROX OF MEAMI (CART Chemolonshi
Sarian) (Homesteed): 1 M. Andreix (US) SwifFord 1hr 33 vin 93 20 9 sec (50 lings complete)
2 G Moore Card Reyntand-Monosdes - 000 5 se
(50 lines): 3 A Zamard (0) Reyntand-routa (50)
4 C Ritipaidi (Bra) Swift-Ford (50); 8 2 Prust
(US) Reyntand-Ford (50); 7 G de Ferten (0) Reyntand-Ford
Honda (50); 8 B Herit (US) Reyntand-Ford (50)
9 D Franchitt (Soo) Reyntand-Honda (50); 11
M Gugelinin (3r) Reyntand-Mercades (50); 11
Carpentier (Card Reyntand-Mercad Honda (SG); 8 B Hera (US) Heyard-Hon (SG); 18 M Gugetnin (BG) Reynard-Honca (SG); 18 M Gugetnin (Br) Reynard-Marcades (SG); 11 P Carpentine (Can) Reynard-Marcades (SG); 13 P Heyard (Sing) Reynard-Marcades (SG); 13 R Heen (US) Seth-Ford (HS); 4-1) Latto (Fr) Reynard-Marcades (HS); 15 R Moreno (B) Reynard-Marcades (HS); 15 I Wasser (US) Reynard-Honda (HS); 8 Reinst 14: 4 Fibiged (E); 8 Prust 10; 9 Fernandez 8; 7 De Fernan 8; 9 Herts; 9; 7 Repost 14: 4 Fibiged (E); 8 Prust 10; 9 Fernandez 8; 7 De Fernan 8; 9 Herts; 9; 7 Repost 14: 4 Fibiged (E); 9 Fernandez 8; 7 De Fernan 8; 9 Herts; 9; 7 Repost 14: 4 Fibiged (E); 9 Fernandez 8; 7 De Fernan 8; 9 Herts; 9; 7 Repost 14: 4 Fibiged (E); 9 Fernandez 8; 7 De Fernan 8; 9 Herts; 18 Gugetnin 3; 11 Carpenter 2; 12 Blandel 1

Rugby League Warrington, who want to move to a new stadium, have had the capacity of their present Wilderspool home re-duced to 9,200, with one side of the ground closed for safety reasons. lan Skeech, the former Swinton cen-tre whose career was ended by leukaemia, has collected a cheque for £10,000 as the proceeds from his tes-Rugby Union

lan Jones, the New Zealand interna-tional, was yesterday suspended for a month after being found guilty of stamping on the head of Jason O'Hel-loran in a ruck during the 22-19 de-feat of his team, Walkato Chiefs, by the Wellington Humicanes in last Friday's Super 12 match

Snooker
Stephen Hendry is set to retain his position as world No 1 for a record ninth successive season after his victory in the Theliand Masters. Hendry ended a 13-month speil without winning a world ranking tournement with a victory in Bangkok, which was his 29th ranking fills.

WORLD RANKONGS Top 10: 15 Hendry (Sco) 428576; 2 J Higgins (Sco) 34762; 3 R O'SLI-liver, [Engl 34285; 4 K Doherty (In) 22742; 5 J Perrott (Engl 27557; 6 M Williams (Sco) 7 P Botton (Engl 22544; 8 A Michigans (Sco) 2175; 9 S Lee (Engl 20764; 10 T Maho (Mela) 2750;

Pakistan's Jansher Khen has with-drawn from a competitive event at short notice for the second time in a

week. The 28-year-old yesterday de-cided that his knees were too painful to allow him to play for Helifax Insur-ance in last nights National Super League match against Ellie Lingfield. Early last week Jarsher withdrew be-letedly from the Austrian Open Cham-pionship in Linz for the same reason.

Tennis

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TIRRENO-ADRIATICO RACE Shift stage 224km, Teramo to Frontone); 1 G Lombard Today's fixtures Football

POCCOSIII
7.30 unless stated
UEFA CLP
CHARTER-PINALS SECOND LEG
A Ville 89 v Atletico binatrid (1) (7.45)—
Asserte (6) v Lazde (1) (7.16)—
Schallas (4) 0) v Internationale (1)—
Spartist Moscow (3) v Ajax (1) (5.0)—
FA CLP SDCTH-ROUND REPLAYS
Sheffleid 18d v Coverby (7.46)—
West Helst v Areand (7.45)—
MATIONINDE POOTBALL LEAGUE
FIRST-DIVESION
Oxford Utd v Reading (7.45)—
SECOND DIVESION Wrothers v Milliand.
AUTO WINDSCREED'S SHIELD
NORTHERN AREA FINAL SECOND LEG
Brandey (1) (7.48)
SOUTHERN AREA FINAL SECOND LEG
BOUTHERN AREA FINAL SECOND LEG
GOM VAUDOALL CONSTRUCTS GM VAUXHALL CON ian VALDOJALI, CONFERENCE Hallins v Morecambe (7.45)— Hortheigh v Lask Tover (7.45)— Tallord v Yeord (7.45)— SPALDDNG CHALLENGE CUP SERM-PINAL SECOND LEG Wolding (2) v Hayes (8) (7.45) ...

SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION
Hamilton v Rahh
SECOND DIVISION
Brechin v Livingston
THIND DIVISION
FA LIMIENO TROPHY
QUARTER-PINAL REPLAYS
Serrow v Down (7.45)
Southport v Grantibarn (7.45)
Southport v Grantibarn (7.45) Southport v Grantham (7.45)

RYMAN LEAGUE Premier Division: Bromisy v Heybridge; Castralian v Boretram Wood; Chestrain v St. Albare; Hence Brough v Degentern & Rechnige, First Division: Begnor Regis v Romard; Maidenteed Uni v Abingdon Town; Lidonique v Biertey, Second Division: Bestings v Teoting & Micham; Northwood: Leighton; Whennice v Barsteed Third Division: Camberley v Clepton; Corintham Casuals v Vifugata & Frinchier; Heritord v Dorikto, Wandanal Trophy ason-Snake; Soriam Iban v Bedfert; Maidenten v Promis & Bank v Bedfert; Maidenten v Porton & Parel.

ford; Weldelicon v Epstorn & Evel.
UNIBONC LEAGUE Presiden Division: Leigh
RNA v Geinsborsught Runcorn v Colwyn Blig.
Flest Division: Belper v Congluism; Gerten
Flechn, Leidilla Friett Division: Cup isemi-flest
first leg: Barlord v Bradford Perk Avenus, Semifirst leg: Barlord v Bradford Perk Avenus, Semiflest leg: Langilla Liu Ki, 69 v Alfron (2).
League Cup third Found: Altrinchem v Chor-

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division: Ashedd v Skingbourne (745); Gradey Roses v Hestengs: Rings Lynn v Bessacht (745); Merthyr v Dorcheste: Gilbert League Cop acual-least first lög: Burgor v Catchatton Southern Ovision: Erith & Bahaders v Cove-SOUTHWINDS: EMPL & BUNGORD V COVE-cion; Margain v Fleet. ARNOTT HISURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: South Shields v Easington. ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE FIRE DIVISION: SOUTH Shields v Eachgion. NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Division: Backpot Routes v Vaudral Cat; Darwen v Chadderton; Mehre Roed v Selford; Rossendale v Robgrova. West Touris League v Thamasmand; Hythe v Folketion Invoka; State Green v Herma Bay; Turbridge Welds v Erst; Whitstebbe v Canarbury.

SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Hersiann YMCA v Littlehampton; Shoreham v Seitosan

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE
Premier Division: Buckingham v S & L Corby, Cogenhoe v Modition; Eyrestury v Miritesa
Beckstone; Whilingborough v Stocket.
SCHEWFOX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Shatol Manor Farm v Chippenham; Bridg-water v Exmigon; Charley Leadury v Calne, Las Phillips Cop: Mangobalisid v BidsJEMSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Caction V Subdury Wenderse; Falenthem v Con-lector; Histon v Great Varmoudir, Navmariet v Webbys; Widton v By; Woodardige v Woodwin, INTERLRIK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Rings Norton v Stanford; Knypersity Victoria v Weiterselled; Wilsonial v Processe; LEAGUE OF WALES Clearure v Heiserfordwest; NewYorn v Aberlystwyth, PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division; Black-tum v Darby (73); Notlinghem Forest v Pression (73).

AVON INSURANCE CONBINATION First Di-vision: Americ v Totlenham (2.0). THE TRACES FA YOUTH CUP Fifth-round re-Rugby Union REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Lelcoslar v Berturians (745).
CLUB MATCH: Northampton v RAF (730).

Other sports SOWLS: Wemen's British Championships (Der lington). The Companisment I Street of Different (1887) 3-76 6-16-1.

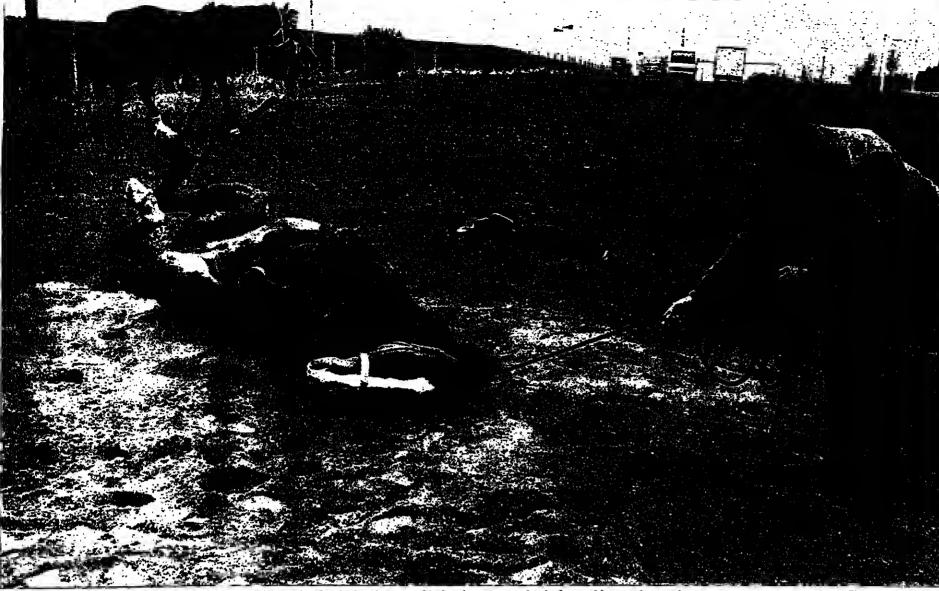
ATP RANKINGS: 1 P Sempres (US) 3,76195: 2P Korchi (Cz Pleg) 3,452-3 M Rios (Chiés) 3,255: 4 P Retfor (Aus) 4,271; 5 C Russechti (GS) 3,052: 4 P Kerteinton (Rus) 2,027; 7 B Bortheron (Suc) 2,761; 8 A Courries (So) 2,256; 9 R Kraicole (Nesth) 2,206: 18 M Chang (189) 2,256; 18 K Kraicole (Nesth) 2,206: 18 M Chang (189) 2,255; 13 F Manthia (So) 2,051; 14 S Grugosomic (So) 1,975; 18 C Poline (Fr) 1,857; 18 C Robert (Aut) 1,891; 18 C Moya (So) 1,854; 17 T Muester (Aut) 1,891; 18 C Moya (So) 1,854; 19 A Bernsmingul (So) 1,827; 20 T Hearman (CB) 1,922; 21 A M Korniant (So) 1,938; 22 A M Korniant (So) 1,938; 22 A M Korniant (So) 1,938; 23 A M Korniant (So) 1,938; 24 A Conniant (So) 1,938; 25 T Enquist (Swe) 1,451; 25 F Santianto (Fr) 1,446;

Henry Blofeld's West Indies Update

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#### Supposin has the Champion style

THE DAY has arrived when all Cotswolds, with its incessant National Hunt aficionados can pushing, punting and carousing enjoy a free medical. If you check your pulse this opening Cheltenham Festival morning press. There is plenty of craic, and feel just a regular beat you know it is time to go to the doctor. A drum roll should be the your wallet. appropriate sensation.

Cheltenham is noisy, claustrophobic, impoverishing and, by close of play, reminiscent of but never the knuckled rival-a Manila rubhish dump. These ry you see in other sporting are the small factors which make it so good.

tors human and equine. It can a sum which equals a great ocbe a devil of a job determining casion. who has the hardest joh at the Festival. The jumping horses though that we are not about to run over the most sublime piece see a great horse win the first of National Hunt territory in the of the major championship world. The prettiness of the sur-races this afternoon, the Chamroundings is, however, matched pion Hurdle. On official figures by the peril, and one of the few this is a pretty poor bunch, but sobering thoughts of the week it seems inconceivable that the is that some animals are likely animal which leads home toto surrender their lives in this day's huge herd of 18 runners the fiercest amphitheatre they will ever see.

It is hard work too for the speciators who come here, especially the many Irish who leave behind them fragments of with a dry night expected perpottery pig to come to the

can leave visitors feeling as if they've just been in Midnight Exbut the main one always tends to zigzag down the middle of

There is rivalry with the hookmakers and rivalry between the English and Irish, crowds of 50,000. These are great sports fans, watching The main ones are the visi- great horses in a great setting,

> Anorak wisdom has it will not be recognised as a brave and talented athlete.

Those who walked the course vesterday reported the going to be on the dead side, but fect ground is anticipated. Any meeting. A March week in the beast for which the going is forRichard Edmondson selects a restored master to win the Festival's first highlight

to be a fussy thing indeed, A notable element of the race is how many runners are ern Dancer male line is repre-

classically Flat bred. The Northsented by I'm Snpposin, Istabraq, Dato Star, Graphic Equaliser, Pridwell, Sanmartino and Shadow Leader. The last-named has his chance de-RICHARD EDMONDSON

NAP: I'm Supposin (Cheltenham 3.15) NB: His Song (Cheltenham 2.00)

spite a blank run this season, as from in winning the Supreme Novices' Hurdle a year ago.

mously impressive at Haydock to, the 1984 Derby winner. last time that he must be a consideration, though whether he is quite as effective on this drying ground is open to question. For the needy and greedy the best outsiders appear to be Theatreworld, who was runner-

on it".

monism.

biggest bet is not given to great

acts of emotion. "Enjoy your-

self," J P McManus will say, "do

Manus "the Sundance Kid",

appropriate sobriques in racing.

recognise him," Edward Gille-

spie. Cheltenham's managing

director, says. "He merges with

the crowd and only a few, such as the serious group he has got

involved in racing, would know

who and where he is.

just gets on and does it."

became the first horse to carry

his emerald green and gold-

hooped colours to success at the

They call John Patrick Mc-

warded as an excuse will have up 12 months ago, and Cadougold, who could be dismissed as just a good handicapper were it not for the fact that his

manger is filled by Martin Pipe.

Win money, however, should be limited to either Istabraq or I'm Supposin. The former, the favourite, attempts to become the first horse to graduate from the Royal & SunAlliance Novices' Hurdle there's been recently for a (the race he won here 12 Champion Hurdle," months ago) to the ultimate hurdling title.

pedigree chart certainly suggests he should as the six-year-old is Dato Star was so enor- a three-parts brother to Secre-

Istahraq, though, was nowhere near as good as his pedigree on the Flat, when stamina was considered his forte. "He's a horse who does not do anything quickly," Charlie Swan,

ports. "He's not a horse you can be cantering on and say 'go' and he picks up immediately. He takes a while to get going.

"Obviously he's proven over a trip, but he's got the speed to win at two miles as well. He does have a good cruising speed and he stays well, which is what you need at Cheltenham. They all said Danoli didn't have the pace to beat Champion Hurdle horses, but he almost did it [third to Alderbrook in 1995] against one of the best fields

If Istabraq has managed to hold his form for a long time As his novice success was now (he is unbeaten in nine over two and a half miles the co-starts after losing on his debut), nundrum has always heen the horse that has come into straight defeats. Then, however, came a spanking demolition canton, where the six-year-old was afforded a decent pace for the first time this campaign.

ter it," Rowe says. "Richard [Durawoody] said he had a problem pulling him up, and it was nice to see him smiling because he doesn't do that very often.

"If people want to crab that form it's up to them and I'm happy for them to back something else if they want to. I would say my horse has definitely come on for the run, because that's the first time he's seen a race out."

I'm Supposin certainly did that in this race 12 months ago when, on only his third start over timber, he finished fourth to Make A Stand. The tall horse has received considerable buffing since then and comes intothe contest on a seasonal high.

In what may well be an exwhether Istabraq possesses the consideration with one hit is I'm ceedingly fast championship, he is now guaranteed the sort speed to take on the best hors- Supposin. Richard Rowe's ex- the best Flat horse may now to look, and run, like a white ele- best hurdling horse of them all. phant this season after four PM SUPPOSIN (nap 3.15) is already a Derby winner, having won the Ulster Harp version at of some decent rivals at Win- Down Royal In addition, he was beaten only seven lengths in Winged Love's 1995 Irish Derby, when he finished in front of "It was nice to see him run a horse called Celtic Swing. to the line that day and, more Many more Celts are about to the Irish champion jockey, re- than that, go three furlongs af- be frustrated this afternoon.

### A crucial day dawns for two Irishmen returning to a spiritual home

#### Maguire still

Brigadier Roscoe Harvey, who had been one of jump racing's

farabad, favourite for the Triumph Hurdle, is his most obvious chance, although Zaralaska (Supreme Novices' Hurdle) and Escartefigne (Royal & San Alliance Chase) have plen-

In the Gold Cup Maguire will partner Barton Bank, the points out, "he put up a great performance to finish second in the Hennessy and no one said

would normally delight the bookies. The best news for minters, though, is that Maguire is back, and few of his fans will **Greg Wood** 

#### The big-race field

3.15 CHAMPION HURDLE (CLASS A) (Grade 1) C4

1 11-004 BELLATOR (17) 5yo Test

Owners: P Richardson Theiners: G Baiding
Forms: Visualented to Shich 6% lengths learns to Red Shiceser in Select Ma
At Haydock form good to soft when having to be 16% lengths severall to Shi
at highes for length Hamilton Harde at Newbury (2mitDyds, good).
Sunspany: Unbesten in two runs as a juventile harder but sontwelled to
pointing in handicapa that term. Needs to improve out of at recognition to Going of Distance of Rating 105

I Fig2-1 DKTO STAR (52) (D) Tyo 12st.

Dwnst: K Ries, M Guifrie & J Donald Trainer: J M Jetterson
Fornet Led Irind, soon was deer and eased closing stages when bearing G
for Bay most impressively by 20, with Restreet (7th better off nove) bearing
into touris, in Haydock Park Champion Hurde Italia at Haydock (2m, soft)
Sungment; Smart hurder with speed and stamina at this detands with wite going Riesy to be in his favour, is emitted to go very close. Looks an ear

Going of Distance of Rating 132 4 35-010 GRAPHIC EQUALISER (31) (0) (8F) 6yo 12st ... 9 Carberry
Owner: BRASK symfoxie Trainer: A L T Moore (6)
Forne: 281 12sh to Simplical in Tota Gold Trophy at Newbury (2nn 17s)yds. good 
first bealing Lady Delay (38b better) 61 into third with Traetmeworld (28b 
better) 32 back in 12sh in Leibzrie Hardie at Leopardationn (3m, good to soft

in presence in Landau to the terminate autostacida is presence tell here. Gaing of Distance of Reling 115 wascomp numbe at Languardshire (Em good to soft)
ye Randorly handled when well-bestern less time having int,
wascomp Promising such but has yet to show the top class
a tim in realistic channon in this company.

Golden of Pilotes

439451 PM SUPPOSEN (15) (I) Byo 12st. P. Duminoody
Demic: Nicholas Cooper Treiner: R Rose
mic: Always prominent and led fines out when beging Master Seveled most
vestwhely by an easy 201 in Grade Tero Astronator 201 Kingwell Hurdle at
nozation 23m, good to firm).

Going X Distance ✓ Rating 139

1-1111 ISTABRAG (\$1) (C) (O) Dyo Zist. C F Sween
Owner-J P Incherus Theleur: A P O'Brien (b)
owner-J P Incherus Theleur: A P O'Brien (b)
owner-J P Incherus (b) 1/2 in the Theelmeantd 35i back
each in Irish Chempion Hurcle at Leoperdatown (2m, and), Provocely best Spinerary: Smert hurder who won 1907 Royal & SunAllin In (2mSt), University but not entirely convincing at around

3 -1122 PRIOWELL (87) (CD) (BF) Byo Test. A P McCoy
Owner: Jones, Berstock & Fiset perference: Testener: M Pipe
Forms Fishered 19 lengths second to Periody's Return in Grade One Long Well
Hudde (amittiflycis, good to soft) Periody's Pilangtin second to Release
(gio wone) in Peace Five Best Hudde et Chalerham (Amil, good).
Summing: Multin but talented performs who has plenty of abortine and needs
a really strong-run race at this chance in order to be affective. He will get thet
hearest if in the mond could have one metalt the forms. we and, if in the mood, could stay on to reach the frame. Going of Distance ? Rating 123

Form: One-passed 7 langths fourth to Meeter Bevelod, 1 langth behind Shed-ow Leader I to begin a short-beed behind Shedon and 2 lengths sheed of the Supposit Gib vorse) in Ngai Hurding Sections (Amilthyds, good to stor Summery: Smert hurder who has been ill-salled by the slow early piece in

Resent nose. Capable of runing well in the strongly-run context this promises to be, but needs to improve a bit to hold more than an each way chance.

Golog & Distance & Rething 128

in to away fourth in Grade One Christmas Hundle at Kempton (2m, soft, steeps). Wos Supreme Novices Hundle (2m toylos) ingressively here best and not dispress in slowly run reception season. Sest form on test ground, was and the must may do for him this alternoon.

Going X. Distance . 14 13-300 SHOOTING UGHT (S1) (CD) 5yo 23st R Ferrent.

Owner: J M Brown Trainer: F Marphy

Form: Whelested two out when 21 Wanglins right to Steepleal in Tale Gold

Tochy at Northury (2010) dis good: Previously Tal burth to Relition in the South at behind Prichaell (dis better) in Buls Hunde at Chettenham (2011) good) Summary: Docard singing hunder who needs at least 2/an to show his best and really at cut pric dispuriouship standard at any distance. Well bestern in most recent starts. No chance.

Going & Distance & Retting 122

15 2506m THEATHEWORLD (24) (D) 6yo 12st \_\_\_\_\_\_TP Treacy
Owner: Mrs J Magnier Trainer: A P O'Britro (it)
Form: Beat Noble Thyrin 'vil in Gastle Three Red Mile Train Hundle at Gowsen
pack (2m, good to and it after beating Coultery Lad by 11 in the Red Bog Purdie at Nesen (2m21, heavy).
Summary: Second in last year's Champion Hundle, but this tooks a lougher
reviewed and mostly designouting this term withough signs of a return to form
in 1900at socies, Needs to Improve to Figure.
Golog v Distance v Resting 125

16 653332 LADY DAISY (45) (D) Syo Tist 9b \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ F Tilloy
Center: P.F. Karbo Timbrer: T Mulina (M)
Form: Wha 4 second to Caulion in this Gold Toplay Tile Handlesp Hurde at
Ayr 2m, good to antit) after theiring thanking it fard to Graphic Equations
(25b worse) in Ladvola Handlesp Hurde at Leopardstown (2m, good to sort)
Sammers: Smart handlespoor and my to exceled what the

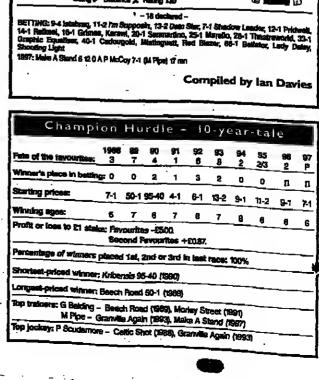
Ayr Zing good to actify after Attaining finishing 51 than to Graphic Expedience (SEE) wereal) in Lecturia Handoop Hurde at Leopardistons (Zing good to actify Secretary: Smart handoopper and put up secolect weight-carrying performance in the Lecturia, Goos wall in the mind and would not have to improve much to on, other a claim. much to run into a place.

Going / Distance / Rating 129

17 11-93 NARELLO (26) (D) Tyo that Sh. P. Never Owner: Mr & Mr. W J Wilsons Trainer: Mrs. M Faveley Form: Was 674 third to Master Bevelot in Agla Hurde at Sandown (Santhlyds, good to soft). Berief best Shooting Light (Elb worse) by 1/4 in 10se Shor Trophy Hurdeap Hurde at Chapters (20-4770) of, good to soft). Santhury: Good tough, was even stags well and want 2/4m-plus. Outpeed in stowly unless from and, without pure to be before saled by the more heaficily conducted affer, packably incles the pace and class to make an impact.

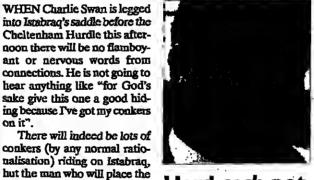
Going \*\* Distance X\*\* Fasting T29

Going of Distance X Rating 130



The Festival. And St Patrick's Day. **Enter Charlie,** Aidan and JP. (Istabraq's Champion Hurdle: 5/2.) \$0990 624 624 5/2 Istabrao 25/1 Cadrugold 6/1 Dato Star 25/1 Kerawi 6/1 I'm Suggosin 33/1 Graphic Equaliser 7/1 Shadow Leader 33/1 Marello to/t Pridwell 40/1 Mistinguett **14/1** Grimes 40/1 Red Blazer 16/1 Theatreworld 66/1 Shooting Light 18/1 Relkeel 100/1 Lady Dalsy 28/1 Sanmartino 150/1 Bellator E/W one-quarter the odds a place 1,2,3. **GUINNESS ARKLE TROPHY** 2m. Chegaritam 2.35om. Live on CH4 11/2 Champleve 10/1 Lake Kariba 6/1 Direct Route 20/1 Delphi Lodge 6/1 Edelweis du Moulin 20/1 Potter's Gale RM Karlastrof 33/1 Chief's Song 7/1 Wade Road 33/1 High Warrior 8/1 Queen of Spades 33/1 Mandys Mantino 9/1 Hill Society 66/1 Ground Nut 9/1 Space Trucker 250/1 Non Vintage EAV one-quarter the odds a place 1,2,3.
od of any within with 3P place terms and Discusts rain 4(t) or These prices may have charged since this newspaper was privide.

For the very latest prices, page Ladkrobes Telesest 686/6 (Ch4). win total CTO staked tall. Cullery onest be 18 ar over Lagranius integhant policy relea Ladbrokes For the Festival, Lacbrokes are favourite.



#### Hard cash not flash defines McManus the which is perhaps the most in- biggest hitter

The nickname suggests a figure Festival in the Sun Alliance with sequins, a white suit per-Novices' Hurdle of 1982. Mchaps, and a thrusting manner. J P is actually thunderously un-Manus won a reported flashy, an earnest character at £250,000, which, in his permathe races in his long dark coat. nently understated style, he re-You half expect him to start exferred to as "a nice little touch". tolling the virtues of Mor-

Tuesday, but a more significant "A lot of people wouldn't day for him would have been Sunday, when a memorial mass was held for John Durkan at Newmarket. Durkan was the man who found him Istabraq before lenkaemia located and claimed the 31-year-old wouldbe trainer.

"He is pleasant but he is not Dave Allen and he certainly Manus fancies Rough Quest does not go out of his way to court the limelight. He is essentially a private man who JP tries to get on at an early price and do the bookmak- of all J P would like to win this ers. It is something he has affected with uncommon frequency since Mister Donovan

> and, most of all, for John Durkan.

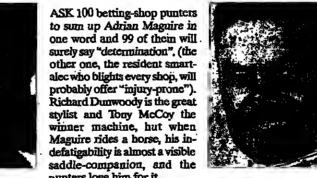
punters love him for it.

to watch from the stands, Backers whose usual approach to a

J P McManus was 47 last

In the Gold Cup, J P Mceach-way and in the Festival Bumper he advances his own Joe Mac, who is named after his great friend and Limerick hurler Joe McKenna. But most afternoon's Champion Hurdle: for the championship race kudos, for the punting money

Richard Edmondson carries the colours of the late



#### Quite simply, the last three Festivals have not been the same without the small bundle of grit which belongs aboard David Nicholson's runners. Just days hefore the meeting in 1995, he returned to Ireland to mourn the death of his mother, while in each of the last two seasons, injury has forced him

big field is to stick a fiver on whatever Magnire is riding have been forced to look elsewhere. Now, at last, Maguire can pick up the threads of what had

promised to be one of the great Festival careers. He was just 19 and still an amateur when a chance opening on Martin Pipe's Omerta in the Kim Muir Chase became his first ride and first winner at the Festival. A year later, he won the Gold Cup itself on Cool Ground, numer-up to Mr Mulligan 12 while 1994 brought success in months ago. He will start at the Queen Mother Champion around 40-1, but as Magnire Chase (Viking Flagship) and

Triumph Hurdle (Mysilv). Viking Flagship again figures in Maguire's book of rides, but he had a chance last year either." it is Relkeel, his mount in today's Champion Hurdle, who would provide the most appropriate winning return. Twice scratched from the race at the last moment when near favouritism, Relkeel let any mount go unbacked.

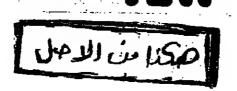




most committed supporters. Such is the strength of Maguire's engagement book that he is second-favourite to be top rider at the meeting. Za-

ty to recommend them.

Victory for such an outsider



HYPERION'S

TV TIPS

3.15: Istabraq is sure to be heavi-

ly backed to end a long losing run

in this event for Irish-trained run-

pers (since Dawn Run in 1984).

Payourite: 250 have a noor recent record, so the value looks else-

where. Cadougold, and Red Blazet pase bjace brosheers at anticitélong odds. 1 m Supposin spread-

eagled the opposition at Wincan-ton last time and hails from the

bang-in-form Richard Rowe stable.

Richard Dunwoody's mount is the

one to be oo if the ground dries our.

DATO STAR, in contrast, is a

mud-lover who was very impressive

at Hayoock last time. He will be a

formidable force here as long as the

3.55: EVEN FLOW was a wide-

margin winner at Kempton, for

which he was raised 10lb, and had

a harder-fought victory at Hav-dock, for which he went up the

handicap a further 7th, Both those

races were over five furlongs short-

er than this afternoon's trip, but the

opposition looks beatable and his

trainer is adament that his lightly

raced nine-year-old will stay thi

distance. The proven stamina of

Tell The Nipper makes Conor

O'Dwyer's mount the main danger.

8-1 7-1 9-1 8-1 B-1 9-1 9-1 9-1

25.1 25.1 22.1 25.1

Winter Bollo 12-1 10-1 11-1 9-1

Orassol Lad 14-1 10-1 12-1 14-1 Lo Stragona 20-1 20-1 20-4 15-1

General Pongo 25-1 20-1 20-1 20-1 38-1 20-1 20-1 25-1 utan Tradewinds 25-1 25-1 20-1 38-1 Time Enough 20-1 26-1 33-1 33-1 Each-way a quarter the odds, places, 1, 2, 3 C - Coret, H - William Hill, L - Ladbrokes, 7 - Toler

Cheltenham --- 5.05

purf stays on the soft side.

CHELTENHAM

2.00: His Song was heaten a length and a half by Istabraq in the Irish Champion Hurdle, but across the

water there is confidence 100 in Archive Pootage and French Ballerina. The last-named could be

heland's best value. Foundry Lane

has solid claims, though Mary

Reveley's runners have had a thin time here. Zaralaska looked high

class when winning on his hurdles

debut at Ascot in November and on that form would win today. Gary Moore's hurdlers are rimning well

and SHAHRUR (available at 33-1) is capable of delivering a strong late challenge. He saw too much day-

2.35: Edelweis Du Moulin has yet

to beat quality opposition over fences but must be feared after win-

ning all four outings this season. Ex-

French Champleve was out foot

perfect over Ascot's obstacles last

time but is still a major player here.

Wade Road is talented but prefers

right-handed tracks. Kadastrof, a

powerful front-runner, will draw the

ting from most of today's rivals.

But the statistics show that all his

12 victories over jumps have been

on tracks with a level rur - Hill

Society will like the drying ground and this one's latest unplaced run

can be ignored. QUEEN OF

SPADES is best going left-handed and has shown her best form on

this, her local track. Her mares' al-

lowance can enable her to reverse

Warwick form with Lake Kariba.

First show

light at Kempton last time.

000

BSE

erds

## Return of the artist formerly up another up another ace with Song "He was a lovely animal." "He was a lovely animal."

IT MAY be true that success is all a question of hard work, but it still does not hurt to be born lucky. Enough millionaires to fill the Dorchester twice over have yet when David Lloyd decided to divert some of the £20m he made from selling his tennis centres into the uncertain medium of bloodstock, he came up with the top-class chaser Sound Man. Today, another of his handful of horses, His Song, will start favourite for the Supreme Novices' Hurdle, and if punters their animals, he would proba-

by be a shorter price still. Little has gone wrong for Lloyd, either in business or on the turf, since he gave up his life as a journeyman tennis pro instead. Although Sound Man's life was cut short by a tendon injury, his career brought 17 victories from 25 starts, and left Lloyd enthralled by racing.

I was lucky to have such fun with Sound Man," he says. "He gave me my biggest thrill in racing when he was beaten by six inches in the Arkle Trophy by Klairon Davis. It was the most exciting race I have ever seen, just like the thrill of playing in the Davis Cup.

you really felt as though you were getting through."

Lloyd is equally enthusiastic about His Song, who was bought on the recommendation of Mouse Morris, his trainer. "You don't get horses like this every day," he says. "He's got. a great chance at Cheltenham and there's nothing I'd like better than standing in the winner's enclosure but, barring injury, he's got a chance of doing even greater things two years down the line."

Though he is now Britain's backed the owners rather than Davis Cup captain, Lloyd places the Cheltenham experience far above anything which tennis has

"No question, it has to be it up there with the top sporting events in the world, higher than Wimbledon for sure. There's such excitement, with a There's Guinness drunk by the gallon, others sipping champagne and eating strawberries and yet the whole crowd is so

Lloyd is far from alone in believing that His Song will take all the beating in the opener today - three million Irish people agree with him for a start. Certainly, he has a favourite's Song is simply a very promising



sibilities.

31/CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL

chance, but the worry about his price is that it depends rather heavily on what appeared to be great mix of all walks of life. an outstanding performance behind Istabraq in the Irish Champion Hurdle on his most recent run.

> The last novice to run so well m that race was Danoli, and he duly landed a huge gamble at the Festival. An alternative view of the race, though, is that Istabraq is a little short of top class over two miles and His

novice, which makes today's KARIBA (nap 2.35), who put up odds desperately short.

He is one to oppose -a statement which is true of almost all Festival favourites - and Wahiba Sands (pext best 2.00) could be the one to beat him. His early-season form - including a defeat of today's rival Zaralaska - was highly promising, and the fierce pace which seems certain today should bring further improvement.

There is value too in the Arkle Trophy, where LAKE race for the timid, but the gen- ing from the saddle.

erally available 9-1 against With an excellent trial at Warwick last Impunity (4.30) is worth a small time out, must be backed at the 14-1 offered by William Hill this

The final race, meanwhile, morning. His price certainly offers another favourite to opmakes more appeal than anypose in Unsinkable Boxer, who thing in the handicap chase is trained by Martin Pipe and which the same bookmaker very much a stayer on the up, but still a laughable price at now sponsors, but the remaining two events both offer posodds as low as 11-4. Spendid (5.30), from David Nicholson's With amateurs holding the yard, is better value at 16-1 reins, the Fulke Walwyn/Kim (Coral), all the more so since Muir Handicap Chase is not a Adrian Maguire will be assist-

4.30 FULKE WALWYN KIM MUIR CHALLENGE CUP H'CAP CHASE (CLASS B) £25,000 added 3m 1f £22,926 

2150		<u>п</u>	<u> </u>		Horse	C	H	L	
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rchive Footage	<u>- 8-1</u>	10-1	9-1	9-1	Lux-U-Frank	7-1	7.1	7:1.	_
anch Ballerine	6-1	9-1	7-1	10-1	Tell The Mipp	<b>6</b> -1	7-1	7.1	
pundry Lune	18-1	9-1	12-1	9-1	Girame Five	7-1	7-1	6-1	
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dinze	14-1	14-1	14-1	20-1	Deatin D'Extr	uval 19-1	10-1	12-1	_1
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mbarieigh Hous	a 39-1	40-1	40-1	40-1	Young Hustle	r 14-t	11-1	10-7	18
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ng Kalo	28-1	33-1	50-1	33-1					
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yel Schuler	86-1	66-1	86-1	40-1	Horse	C	Н	L	
leel	86-1	86-1	86-1	86-1	Pepition	5-2	10-3	3-1	Ţ
rendipity	86-1	50-1	66-1	50-1	Time For A Ru	an 3-1	10-3	3-1	10

Each way a qu	arter the c	olds, pl	сец 1,	2,3	
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Horse	C	ĸ	1,		
Erichaels Du Nig	ola 11-2	11-2	B-1	6.1	ı
Champleve	11-2	11-2	11-2	8-1	
Kadastrof	6-1	11-2	6-1	11-2	
Direct Route	8-1	11-2	8-1	7-1	
Wade Bood	7-1	7-1	7-1	6-1	ı
HIR Society	9-1	<u>B-1</u>	9-1	.B-1	ı
Queen Of Space		19-1	<u>8-1</u>	8-1	l
Space Trucker	<u>- 9-1</u>	_8-1_	<u>9-1</u>	12-1	
Lake Kariba	12-1	4-1	0.1	10-1	
Potter's Gale	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	
Delphi Lodge	25-1	25-1	20-1	<b>25-1</b>	
Chief & Soug	25-1	38-1	38-1	20-1	
Mandya Mantin		33-1	33-1	<u>25-1</u>	i
Hot Warrior	40-1	40-1	33-1	40-1	
Ground Nut	50-1	66-1	86-1	40-1	
Non Vintage	250-1			_	
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					• 13	Jack Betton	12-1	12-1	14-1	12-1
				_	1 13	Motastnelo	14-1	12-1	14-1	12-1
Chelte	siha	m <b>–</b>	- 3.1	5		Spendid	16-1	14-1	14-1	12-1
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stabrag	5-2	11-4		_	Hi	Halle Derring	25-1	20-1	20-1	16-1
Dato Star	5-1	6-1	6-1	11-2	Li	Nor's Fluiter	16-1	25-1	15-1	25-1
I'm Supportin_		6-1	6-1	11-2		Pleasure Stared	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1
Sheclow Londer	_	15-2	7-1	7-1		Allegation	33-1	25-1	25-1	25-1
Pricharell	12-1	8-1	10-1	11-1		Couchent				
Grimes	14-1	14-1	14-1	16-1			33-1	33-1	33-1	33-1
Relixed	16-1	10-1	16-1	14-1	1 19	Courabil	33-1	33-1	33-1	33-1
Saproertino	22-1	20-1	20-1	22-1	1 1	Section Seven	28-1	33-1	25-1	25-1
Kecawi	14-1	20-1	25-1	22-1	l li	Chebrol	40-1	40-1	33-1	33-1
Thestrewoodd	25-1	25-1	16-1	25-1	H	Delly Boy	40-1	40-1	25-1	33-1
Marallo	25-1	25-1	33-1	22-1		Gillian Corre	25-1	40-1	33-1	33-1
Cadoogold	4D-1	28-1	25-1	33-1		Sherti	50-1	33-1	40-1	40:1
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Red Blazer	33-1	40-1	40-1	40-1		Claireawan	50-1	66-1	40-1	40-1
Shooting Light	66-1	40-1	66-1	66-1		lot Ruice	50-1	66-1	56-1	50-1
Lady Delay	100-1	100-1	100-1	100-1		Spring Marathon	65-1	50-1	50-1	50-1
Bellator	100-1	100-1	150-1		1	Each-way a quarter	the oc	ldt, plac	25, 7, 2	3.4
Each-way e que	rier the c	odds, p	oces, 1	23	-	C · Coral, H · William	n HBLL	· Lado	ONBS. T	· Tote

Commentered Drive	1 1/2		376	-
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Jack Belton	12-1	121	14-1	2-1
Metastnelo	14-1	12-1	14-1	12-1
Spendid	16-1	14-1	14-1	12-1
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Halle Derring	25-1	20-1	20-1	16-1
Ivor's Fluiter	15-1	25-1	15-1	25-1
Pleasure Stered	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1
Allegation	33-1	25-1	25-1	25-1
Couchent	53-1	33-1	33-1	33-1
Courabil	33-1	33-1	33-1	33-1
Section Seven	28-1	33-1	25-1	25-1
Chebrol	40-1	40-1	33-1	33-1
Delly Boy	40-1	40-1	25-1	33-1
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Herbour Island	86-1	50-1	50-1	40-1
Clairetwan	50-1	66-1	40-1	40-1
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Spring Marathon			50-1	50-1
Each-way a quarter	the od	Ut, plac	25, 7, 2	3,4

#### Results PLUMPTON

PLUMPTON

2.00: 1. JUST NIP (M.A. Fitzgerald) 7-1:
2. Diots McCartiny 8-1: 2. Gorman 4-1: 13
ran, 9-4 fay Go Go Henry (4th) 2'/-2'/- (Mrs. 1-13)
Richards, Arundel) Toke St.50: C150. C170. C180. DF: 12:1-40. CSF: 25:7.3. Tho: 2:900.
2.30: 1. BAYLINE STAR (J.F. Tiley) 2-1
fay; 2. Kelly Mac 3-1: 3. Hum 'n' Haw 141.10 ram. rik, diet. (Mee H Kright, Wahriage).
Toke: 22:70: C150. C130. C290. DF: 5400 CSF:
2744. Tho: C25:40
3.00: 1. WESLEY'S LAD (D.J. Burchell) 6-5
fay: 2. Tiester of Lies 7-2: 3. Americanval 9-4 farm. c1. 40. Burchell, Ebber
Vale). Rote: C150; C130, C10, C10. DF: C280.
CSF: 5407. Tho: C100. NF: Fourdaned.
3.30: 1. WADADA (D.J. Burchell) 4-1: 2.
Sofyama 9-4 fay: 3. Salley 60-16 fam. (2.
3. (D. Burchell, Ebber Vale). Folse: 25:50; 23:0.
21-40. DF: C210. CSF: C278.
4.00: 1. REGAL AURA (P. Hide) 4-1: 2.
Amber Spark II-1: 3. Crane Hill 6-1. B ran.
3-1 fav. Native Venime (publied up. 3'/s, 3, (D. O'Brien), Totas: 94:90; C150, C300, C190. DF:
C2200. CSF: 54:81. Thicast: E24:44.
4.30: 1. STALISHIDGE BILL (Mas: A Goschen) 4-1; 2. Tiffust Led 4-1; 3. Pather
Rector 4-11 fax: 5 ran. 20; 3. U. Dufosee,
Gillinghami, Totas: 5350; C220, C190. DF:
C700. CSF: C158. S. Thic. 25:700.
STRATFORD

STRATFORD

STRATFORD

STRATFORD

2.30: 1. MORE DASH THANCASH (AP McCoy) 100.30 km; 2. Cept it 17 you Can Ti-2: 3. Nobis Tom 8-1. R ran. 4. 5. (Mrs Meritauhres, Lembrum) Toke; 230: CF20. CF20

STOLIC CSF: SEAR THIC SESTILINE BROW Cyra-no.
3.50: 1. MARTHA'S BOY (At Stuart Robin-son) 4-1 pt lart. 2. Joy For Life 3-1; 3. Vin-tage Choica 4-1 pt last. 15 rats. 2%, dist. (D. Robinson, Lawes). Tota: SSOO; CSOO, E220, E220, E220. Dr.; E330.9. CSF: E3645. Tio: C6830. 4.20: 1, MARTIELL BOY (R. Johnson). 11-4. If lav.; 2. Flappance 18-1; 3. Spring Gale. 1-4. J. flas. 9 rats. 2%, hd. (May Vennta, Williams, Harstord, Tota: SAOO; E130, E230, E170. DF: E2440. CSF: E4156. Tricase: £72483. Tricx E2910.

7-4 tar; 2. Bavandler 9-4; 3. If Only 16-1, 12 ran. 3, 22. (J. Spearing). Total: £3.00; £1.0, £1.80, £2.50. DF: £3.30. CSF: £5.50. Trio: £1.00.

Jeckpot: \$6,34970 Placepot: \$960. Quadpot: \$430. Place 6: £931. Place 5: £402. TAUNTON

2.10: 1. BETOND OUR REACH (J Herrist) 7-2; 2. Strewd John 7-1; 3. Purtheck
Cavalier 8-1 7 ran. 6-4 to Robert Prod. 12.
7 (R Hodges) Total 2400; 22:10 22:80 DF:
C1430, CS: 52:1%.
2.40: 1. DYMAN J Lower) 8-1; 2. Mrs.
Em 9-4 tor, 3. Grand Applause 25-1 12 ran.
3. V. (M Ppe) Total 280; 22:00 22:00 25:00
DF: C1220, CSF: C3463 Tracest Pot93 Tro:
C8460.
3.10: 1. AVANTI EXPRESS (N Wilsonson)
6-4; 2. Citton Gest 11-10 fax; 3. Storm Run
9-2 4 ran. 8. 9 (C Egerton), Total 22:10 DF:
C150, CSF: C346
3.00: 1. FTZMANARIOS (S MeNel) 5-4 fax;
2. Macilieo 100-30; 2. Kheyad 10-1; 11 ran.
13. NL (C Brooks) Total 2190, C10; C150,
C20, DF: C3-6; C529 Tro: C750, NFs;
Lintt The Demage, Robles 1, Tanar Liy
4.10: 1. MERAWANG (T J Murphy) 7-4
for; 2. Miss Ondes 9-4; 2. Cadbury Caster 23-19 ran. 4, 24, (P Nachols), Total 22:00
C5020.
4-40: 1. KING TORUS (Mr J Jules), 1-2 TAUNTON

\$10.20
4.40: 1. KING TORUS (IA\* J Jules) 1-2
tar; 2. Full Alint 6-1; 3. Holy Sting 12-1 s
ran, 4. 18 (Victor Dartrall) Total: \$140; \$140
\$150. DF: \$2.70. CS: \$140s
\$.10: 1. DRAGON KING (8 Fersion) 7-1;
2. Compass Pointer 3-1 tay; 3. Shelles
Drawn 12-1 13 ran, 14, 9. (C Barwell, Total:
\$250; \$230. \$160, \$420. DF: \$1490. CSF.
\$2808. Tricast: \$2411. The \$15650.
\$180. \$160. \$240. DF: \$1490. CSF.
\$2808. Tricast: \$2411. The \$15650.

INDEPENDENT **RACING SERVICES** 0891 261 LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS CHELTENHAM 971 SEDGEFIELD 972 SOUTHWELL 973 ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 261 970

Cheltenham

HYPERION 235 Queen of Spades (nb) 4.30 Papillon 5.05 Tompetor 5.05 Tompetoo

GOING: Good to Soft.

Duffing Good to Soft.

Left-hand, gelloping course with stiff fences. Uphil run-in of 240yd.

Course Is one mile north of town off A495. Bus link from Chellenham Spa rell station (served by Bristol, Birmingham and London, Paddington) two miles sweet ADMISSION: Cub E60; Tatherable 255; Courage Enclosure 250, CAR PARIC 25.

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe — 38 winners from 253 numers gives a success relia of 15%; O Nicholson 34 (rom 188 (181%); N Twiston-Devices 28 from 222 (nt.7%); d GR-ford 26 from 18 (165%).

of 17%; O Numberos of 160 (RIT %); in Newsbort-Device 25 from 222 (11.7%); a Cartoria 26 from 186 (159%).

© LEADING JOCKEYS: R Derewoody 35 wins from 196 (179%); A P McCoy 30 from 116 (259%); in Milliamson 30 from 135 (225%); in A Pizzgerald 16 from 140 (11.4%).

© FAVOURITIES: 205 wins in 530 races (883%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Archive Footage, Circus Ster, Maniferio (2.00) Metaestatio

ı	(A)	sorea)	larrah .	
		2.00	CITROEN SUPREME NOVICE HURDLE (Grade #) (CLASS A) £45,000 added 2m 110yds £36,662	C4
ı	1	213144	AMBERILEIGH HOUSE (S) (D) (Ms A L Diled) M Hourigan (M) 8 to 8	_C O'Dwy
ı	2	4/1	ARCHIVE FOOTAGE (30) (D) (D; M Smurtl) D Weld (40 6 11 8	Durmoody B
l	**	41	BENATON (19) (D) (Lordship Study D Elevority 5 15/6	P. Holley
ľ	4	4312	CHARMONG ADMIRAL (FB) (FB) Das L Control Mand Saintering of the con-	B واورودگرانید
ŀ	5	11435	CIRCUS STAR (17) (CD) (The Ringmenters) D Nicholson 5 ft 8	A Johnson B
ı	9	646600	FABULON (36) (BF) (Martin Ploe Recing Chick M Ploe 5 tl 8.	D Pubernan
ı	7		FARU (F140) (Abol Ali Recing) P Webber 8 11 8	J A SloCerty
ı	9	22	FOUNDRY LANE (36) (D) (A Sharatt) Mrs M Revoley 7 to 8.	P Mires
ı	9	183121	GATFLAX (24) (D) (Glee Clarke) N Twiston Davies 9 11 8	C Liennellyn
	10	9P33	GENERAL ASSEMBLY (10) (The Craftwren) G Margarson 8 71 B.	_M Richards
į	11	-\$12P1	GINGER FOX (45) (D) (M Van Doome) Mrs J Pilman 5 11 8	R Ferrant
ļ	12	1-1112	HBS SONG (61) (D) (D Lloyd) M Mortis (41) 5 11 6	R Hughes
ı	13	32	GINGER FOX (45) (D) (M Ven Doorne) Met J Planen 5 tl 8	f A Fitzgerald
Į	14	411121	NATIVE ESTATES 207 (D) (Mrs 9 M McKinney) N Mascle (M) 8 11 8	P Carbony
ı	6	-13F32	OONAGH'S STAR (30) (D) (J P McMarce) D Swen (49 6 11 6	CFS
ľ	16	332	PERCY CROW (25) (BF) (Mrs B P Davis) P Withhor 5 11 8	A Thornton
ı	7	1413	POLAR PROSPECT (17) (D) (Mr & Mrs D Loss/B Yster) P Hobbs 5 11 B	G Tormey
ŀ	18	·11114	QUINCE (24) (D) (Mee C Byrre) P (highes (h) 5 11 9	N Milletiact
ŀ		320031	ROYAL SCHITTAR (10) (P J M Pacing) M Tompkins 8 11 8	A Dobbb
l	20	324	SALEEL (24) (BF) (Jebel Al Recing) Mrs J Pitners 9 11 8	F Titley
ľ	21	Di	SEREMOIPTY (34) (D) (M J Horton) M Pipe 5 11 8	"I And I Military
ı	22	713114	SHAHFIJER (17) (D) (Ars Elizabeth Kernen) 6 L. Moore 5 11 8	H Kavabago
ļ	28	131223	UNAPPARED (30) (D) (MIS P Mounty P Mulina (A) 6 11 8	T P Breck
	24	1123	WAHIBA SANOS (19) (D) (EF) Lord Swaything) J Dunlop 5 11 9	_AT MCCOY
	25	1291	ZARALASKA (31) (D) (Lady Heris) D Nicholson 7 11 8	······································

197: Shadow Leader 6 11 8 J Osborne 5-1 (C. Egarbor) 10 ras FORM GUIDE.

HIS SONG stands out on his second to latebrarq at Leopardstown – that cracking run following an unbesten sequence at Nass. Febrytrouse and Leopardstown. Prench Balliertran is Interesting in that she was recorded against his Song at Leopardstown, Deater nine lengths) and has won in great style since in testing ground at Narkin. But this mare needs to improve a bundle to reverse the form with His Bong, who meets her on 7th better terms. With His Bong, who meets her on 7th better terms. With His Issaed runs in this instead of the Champion Hurcle. He liked the mud in his days on the level at Reports, he should at least reverse series Wetherby from with Foundry Latins on 7th better terms. With Tony McCoy riding this John Dunlop hosse, Wehibe Sands that the pace to be respected. Zeralevical is a similar type, being good enough to win hot paces are not be level at Royal Ascot and Haydock, Soft ground may not be his ideal cup of its, but cannot be ruled out with any confidence even if he was turned over at 6-1 on by Wehibe Sands at Lecester. Richard Durwoody rides Dermor Webts Archive Footage in fearur of another of his successful rides, Quitase, Archive Footage draw clear to best Contagning that the process of the plant of the plant and the process of the second or the seco

ı		2.35	ARKLE CHALLENGE TROPHY (NOVICE) CHASE (Grade 1) (CLASS A) £75,000 added 2m £50,052	C4
•	. 1	2514	CHEF'S SONG (38) (CD) (Ms A Devine) 9 Dow 8 11 8	
	.2	-4P212	DELPHS LODGE (50) (C) (M Ferrari) T Teatile (ki) 8 11 8	T P Treaty
	. 8	2-1210		A Dobbla
	. 4	1-117		Carbany
	5	121F42	GROUND NUT (33) (0) (Mrs R L Hasking) R Buckler B 17 8	_B Powell
	9	'5mB9	HILL SOCIETY (37) (D) (P Garvey) N Meanle (ki) 8 11 9R	Demogrady
•	7	13-1P4	HOH WARRIOR (11) (D) (D F Alport) C Brooks 7 ft 8	G Brackey
	8		KADASTROF (17) (D) (A P Paton) R Dicking 8 11 8	
	B		LAKE KARIBA (24) (D) (Barber/Colum/Curry/Mont) P Nichols 7 11 8	
	10		MANDYS MANTINO (19) (CD) (BF) (J Plackett) J Gilford 8 ft 8	
•	. 11		MON VINITAGE (10) (0) (A Menn) M Chapman 7 TI 8. W W	
	12	OFFINE	SPACE TRUCKER (81) (CD) (Mrs E Queelly) Mrs. J Herrington (M) 7 1/1 8 N V	
	117	14.70	WADE ROAD (53) (D) (Earl Cadogan) Miss H Knight 7 17 8	I E Total
	×		POTTER'S GALE (10) (D) (J E Potter) D Niziraleon 7 11 3	
	=		OUTEN OF SPADES (24) (CD BF) (Mrs R Vaugher) N Triston-Davies 9 11 3	
'	-		CHAMPLEVE (34) (D) (D A Johnson) M Pine 5 ft 8	
	-	Proti	- 16 decimal-	
	-	-	and the same of th	

— 16 declared —

BETTING: 11-2 Champiove, Edutesia Du Moulin, 5-1 Direct Houle, Kadastrof, 7-1 Wade Rand, 6-1 Hill Society, 10-1 Green Of Spedes, Spece Tractes, 12-1 Jake Kadhe, 20-1 Poller's Cale, 25-1 Delphi Lodge, 33-1 Chieffs Song, Marchy Missien, 40-1 Hoh Wanto, 60-1 Ground Nof, 250-1 Non Vinlage, 1897: Or Royal 8 11 9 A P ArCoy 11-2 (M Ppe) 8 ran

FORME GUIDDE

The automatic pick should be the front-standing Kadestrof on the way he strained Ask from at Newbury. But the will have to be exchalled to get home here and Aintine Looks more his place. Lake Kartisa was pegging back Kadestrof at Kartisa better and he did win at Marching, ecoots, Table Sougher track will suit Lake Kartisa better and he did win at Marching Aging a playing piece fig if A Ascot, Edebwels Du Maculia here been jumping belofty to stay Linbersian from four starts, but he hismit beaten anything of note and he could be the type who wents every whigh to go his way. CHAMPLEVE is a winner over longer these over hurding as said is tracked to prove too strong at the death for Kadestrof and the others. over increas and as weaked to prove too strong at the death for Kadashof and the others. The stable won this last year with Or Royal, and Champleve looks the part after a clear victory at Ascot following a strott at Lingdeld. He meets the cream today, but the age-allowance is a big plus especially with the cut in the ground. Wade Royal has always looked, decent since the bumper win at Ascot. He has a great chance after drawing clear of Hurtidane Lamp and Goeen Of Spades at Ascot lest time when Direct Royal departed two to but when being in contention. Queen Of Spades is 8 hardy mare who should go close meeting Wade Royal on 8to better terms, and she gets the same pull with Lake Karba, for the six-tength besting at Warwick.

3.55 WILLIAM HILL NATIONAL HUNT HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £40,000 added 3m 1f £36,104
1 -842F4 UNIGUIDED MRSSILE (46) (CD) (D E Herrison) G Richards to 11 10
2 /32-04 YOUNG HUSTLER (95) (CD) (G MacEchem) N Triston-Davies 11 11 5C Naudo
3 -2311 OCCOLD (52) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 7 10 10 R Thornton
4 16-35F INCHCAELOCH (102) (D) (F J Carler) J King 9 to to R Durwoody
5 FP-25 BIVER MANDATE (24) (C D) (Arms Duchess of Westminster) T Forsier 11 10 9
8 1-22P4 WHAT A HAND (47) (FA Borest) P Nichols 10 108
7 1/811 EVEN FLOW (17) (AT A Water) T Centry 9 to 7
8 - 535-56 ST MELLION FARWAY (24) (D) (St Mollon Estates) P Wittber 9 TO 5
9 4F0920 DESTIN D'ESTRUVAL (24) (D C Mercer) D Nicholson 7 10 5 A Maguira
10 1/8008 GRAME FIVE (23) (J P McMerus) E O'Grady (M) 11 10 4 C F Swan
11 10-343 GLITTER ISLE (47) (Mrs T Plangton) J Gallard 9 10 2 P Hide
II DOS OUT LET DOC (W) INS 17 MINOR OF CHARLES OF COMMENTS OF THE COMMENTS OF
12 1333F1 TELL THE NEPPER (30) (D) (Mrs S McCloy) M Hourigan (H) 7 10 1
13 UUTIN LLAVU-FRANK (18) (D) (P A Ferrant) M Pipe 9 to 8 A P MicCoy

Minkount weight: 10st. Two handicap weight: 10st. 1

tier, 16-1 St Malion February, 20-1 Gibbr late
1997: Flyor's Nap 11 11 9 D Britigwater 20-1 (if Alend 14 ran
FORM GUIDE
If EVEN FLOW gets this trip, and there is every chance he will as he won a point-to-point
on heavy ground as a youngster, there must be a very good chance he can cerry on this
assecrats good work. Even Flow is more than confirming his promise of 1995 following his
absence off last season and took a successful step up in grade siter an effortiess Kompton win, when beating an in-form Mornale Forte at haydock last time. Use his three previous wine over tences, that was over two and a half miles snot he was staying on strongly.
Unguided Milestie, a failer in lest year's Gold Cup before going on to win at Aintrea, hasn't
found his form this season. Young Hostler continues a long way below his best and although Occold and Luw-U-Frank come into this on the back or winning form, both are
up in grade, by some way for Luv-U-Frank who is well out of the hundreap. One of the
older seasoned chanes as likely to prove more of a threat and River Mandeate fits the bill
nicely. He takes a bit of cooxing at times but can produce the goods and ran out a ready
winner from Strath Royal, Deatin O'Estanuel and Gibbar late at Wetherby in January before finding it all too much of a test in the ground along with 58 Medion Fairway at Chepstox, What A Head has a chance on his runs here in November and at Sandown the
following month – Inchestilloch held each the — and hish challenger Tall The Nipper
connection: EVEN FLOW

	is herdy sufficient, but Rupert Wildey is a good booking. Crawell Lad has run some sound races since then, whithing at Lingfield but running particularly well in detect in good company either side of that. Semonet's jumping was better than it had been for a white at Sandown lisst month.
•	5.05 UNICOIN HOMES GOLD CARD HANDICAP HURDLE FINAL (CLASS B) £30,000 added 3m 2f
•	1 5-5650 ALLEGATION (16) (C) (Merin Pipe Racing) M Pipe 8 12 6 R Hughag V 9 P4PGS PLEASURE SHARED (17) (T Emiss) P Hobbs 10 11 7 R Dizzmoody
	9 PAPOSS PLEASURE SHARED (17) (T Enves) P Hobbs 10 11 7 R December 1
	8 35/0-0 GILLAN COVE (89) (MT Lockyer) R Alber 9 11 5
	4 2/20-0 JACK BUTTON (S1) (44s S A Junes) Bob Jones 9 ti 1 Reputity
	5 1-5003 COURBARIT, (32) (C) (Flichard Green Paintings) M Proc 8 to 13R Johnson B
	8 11/225 GREAT EASEBY (31) (CD) (C) C Saley) W Storey 8 10 13 R McGrath (3)
	7 33-TH UNSINKABLE BOXER (46) (P Green) M Pipe 9 to 12A P McCov
	8 112F30 COUCHANT (99) (Tellone Recing) M Pipe 7 10 11 G Sopple (5) B
	9 -11942 SPENDED (36) (C) (RF) (Mrs S Catherwood) D Nicholson 6 10 10
	10 331025 METASTASIO (17) (P Mallon) D McArdie 65 6 10 10
	11 64-41 TOMPETOO (53) (Patiller Ltd) N Twiston-Davies 7 to 8C Liesestys
	12 -0404 HALLE DERRING (20) (D) (Mrs V Stockdels) N Twiston-Davies 6 to 8
	13 3-66FP JET RULES (38) (Jet Stollonery Cot May J Pitman 6 10 8
	14 128196 MOR'S PLITTER (24) (BE) (W   M Pero) D Florenth 9 10 4
	15 4SI-85 WARNER FOR PLAYERS (34) (T Werner) P Hobbs 7 10 2 C F Swen 10 632-11 ARDRONAN (101) (Mrs L R Joughin) J J O'Neil B 10 2 P Carberry
	10 G2-11 ARDRONAN (101) (Mrs L R Josephin) J J O'Neil 8 10 2 P Carberry
	17 25001 CHARROL (24) (Crebrol Perinerable) John Berry 5 to 0. P Hide
	18 66-50P HARBOUR ISLAND (18) (M 9 Jones) M Pipe 8 10 6 Mr S Durack (5) 9
	19 T23/11 SPRUNG RI-TYTHIN (69) (Sporting Has Beens) K Balley 6 to 6
	28 20234 SHERIFF (F24) (T Misory) J Hills 7 to 0 A MicCarthy 21 P-530 SPRING MARATHON (61) (C) (D) (Ars N Dublish Mrs N Dublish 6 to 0 P Holley
	21 P-1530 SPRING MARATHON (61) (C) (D) (Mrs N Dutlink) Mrs N Dutlink 6 to 0
	22 -63602 DALLY BOY (15) (T) (T H Bennett) T Easterby 6 10 6
	23 -OGEO CLAIRESWAN (24) (D) (Mrs 9 Lockey) M Tompkins 6 to 6R Thomson
	24 35043 SECTION SEVEN (17) (i) P Michanus F Burry (t) 8 to 8 FM Burry (5)
	Minimum: 10st. True hicap weights: Chebrol Set 13th, Harbour labord 9st 13th, Sprung Rhythm 9st 12th,
	Shariff 9st 11b), Spring Mesathon 9et 10b, Delly Boy 9et 10b, Cleiroswen 9st 9b, Section Seven 8et 2b.
	Committee of the Late of the L

Shelf 9s 11b, Spring Mesahon 9st 10b, Dely 8y 9st 10b, Califorewar 5st 9st, Spring Hayann 8st 7sb, Shelf 9st 11b, Spring Mesahon 9st 10b, Dely 8y 9st 10b, Califorewar 5st 9st, Spring Hayann 8st 7sb, BETTRNC-3-1 Unsinkable Boats, 13-2 Rengation, 8-1 Authoram, 10-1 Great Esseby, Metastasio, Spring Rilythm, 12-1 Spandid, 14-1 Jack Button, 16-1 Halls Derring, Warmer For Players, 20-1 Allegedon, 25-1 Nor's Flutter, Heesure Starred, Section Seven, 33-1 others, 5857. Premaneer 7 11 8 R Thoman (5) 14-1 (b) Nicholan) 3st an FORM GUIDE

Unsinkable Boxer's heart come off the bit in winning three novice staying events and was so impressive at Doncaster last the. Stablemate Allegetion, plaped on the post in the shorter Coral Cup last year, keeps the weights from going up. If snything can prevent Unsinkable Boxer from carrying on his menry way it's TOMPETOO who followed up his win at Kampton in January by beating Unsinkable Boxer's stablemate Gysart by eight langths under a penalty at Ascot a week last: it took Tompetoo a time to assert and he should be even more suited by today's extra two furlongs. His stable was fourth last year with Halls Derring. Great Esseby was successful on the Fist after beating Gillan Cove and Phazanser (last year's whener) in a tight finish for this race in 1995, but he reissed last Jumping season and his form hasn't been quite the same on his return. Speedid could prove a bigger danger.

#### Sedgefield

Southwell

proval 5.15 Dukten

.....

25 Sweet Ciseaux 3.00 Castle Coin 3.35 Nocatchim 4.15 Final Hope 4.50 Vise Gunner 5.20 Newbridge Boy Good to Soft (Good in places).

Mer the junction of ASB9 and A177. ADMISSION:

7766.

© LEADING JOCKEYS: G Lee 16-64 (25%), J Supple 15-79 (15%), L Calleghen 15-102 (14.7%), B Storey 18-200 (15%),

© FAVOURITES: 234-807 (38.8%),

BLEMCERED FIRST TIME: Temple Garth (4.15), Glissen Star (viscred, 228)

HYPERION 1.20 Aliaz 1.50 Denbrae 2.20 Divine

Miss-P 2.55 Greenwich Fore 3.25 Bold Faith 4.05 Zalotto 4.40 State Ap-

1.20 THOROUGHBRED H'CAP (CLASS D) (DIV I) 25,000 Sf

3.00 TOTE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 2m 5f 

1.50 DARTMOOR LIMITED STAKES (F) (DIV I) 23,000 7f

- 8 dictard -BETTHIS: 11-4 District, 4-1 Doubto Fiyer, 9-2 Konsteeph, 5-1 Ver Fronty, 7-1 William Double, 3-1 others

2.20 THOROUGHBRED H'CAP (D) (DIV II) ES,000 added 5f

4 SP-PU HP HOP (11) 8 H 2 D Beatley 6 25P MERCS AND PERKS (26) 7 H 2 B Storey 6 44P082 MOCRALISHT VERTITIE (17) 6 8 2 M Ministry 18 7 45565 TROMAS HOPE (8) 8 T1 2 M H Manghton (5) 8 5P4FP5 GAME PORT (20) 9 T0 M J Borks BETTING: 5-4 Castle Cols, 3-1 Always A Paque, 180-30 Moor-light Vestors, 7-1 Crowdod House, 14-1 Hip Hop, 28-1 others 2.25 SELLING HANDICAP HUR-DLE (G) £2,500 3m 3f 110yds —6 declared — 6ETTHG: 7-4 Hocatchire, 9-4 River Uset 13-2 Seeling Gold, 20-1 Meetingland

2.55 CLAIMING LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) 23,000 1m 6f

4.15 TOTE HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £1,500 3m 3f 

3.25 COB HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m

2221 MODIFIANNE (15) (CE) 684 — A Culture 11 6 1-211 MAPPIOLECT (16) (C) (0) 693 — S Withorth 4 QOID ATOMIC SHELL (28) 591 — Q Defield 1

5 1-23 DEPENDENT (10) (1) (10) 550 A WHITE (10) (10) 100 A WHITE (10) (10) 100 A WHITE (10) (10) 7 90 Bud (10) 7 90 Bud (10) 7 89 A WHITE (10) 7 80 A WHITE

BETTRIE: 4-1 Boacitie, 5-1 Bold Faith, 7-1 Moonsides, 8-1 Une Project, 9-1 See Spoese, 10-1 others 4.05 DARTMOOR LIMITED STAKES (F) (DIVII) \$3,000 7 1 2-325 ZALOTTO (14) (CD) 49 8 \_\_\_\_\_\_ A Calliana 8 8 2 06356 CHARRY (13) (1) 49 8 \_\_\_\_\_\_ A McCarby (3) 3 

- 9 declared -BETTHIG: 11-4 Tign Of Night, 7-2 Zalotto, 9-2 Star Of Hing, 5-1 Bine Deced, 6-1 Gedge, 9-1 C-Harry, 19-1 others 4.40 ARAB SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,500 1m 3f O THE STATE APPROVING COD 5 TO 8 A MISCARDY (S) 4 COLUMN CODE MERCURY (S) (C) 5 B TO B SACROSTO (7) 1 COMMON CODE MERCURY (S) (C) 5 B TO B SACROSTO (7) 1 COMMON CODE MERCURY (S) (C) 5 B TO B SACROSTO (7) 1 CODE MERCURY (S) 4 D B A DOWN (S) 1 FINISHED (S) 4 D B A DOWN (S) 1 FINISHED (S) 4 D B A DOWN (S) 1 FINISHED (S) 1 CODE MERCURY (S OCCS- QUARTERSTAFF (181) 489 \_\_\_\_\_\_ G Duffold ( 

5.20 TOTE NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (E) £3,000 2m 1f 1 5044 THE MICHIETONAM (89 7 ti to \_\_\_\_\_\_ R Supplie 2 456 SWINDAR FLYER (RZ) 61 to \_\_\_\_\_ B Gatter 6 00F4 MEMBRIDGE BOY (11) 5 ti 2 \_\_\_\_\_ F Limby (3)

8 6000P RECAMBLE BY (112 6 107 W Menter 10 3204 FORTUNE HOPPER (17 (5) 4 107 W Menter 19 92000 RUBESLAW (46) 6 108 Menter (17 (6) 4 107 W Menter (17 (6) 4 107 Menter (17 (6) 4 1

5.15 SHIRE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m 4f 

12204 DOUBLE ECHO (2) (CO) 10 710 \_\_A McCarlly (5) 7 — 7 Cacharud — Alfricour weight: 7st 10th. Teo weight: Double Eche 7st 8th. HET 1990; 5-9 Deklem, 7-8 Rever Captala, 4-1 Flaid Of Vielon Ecogli Leader, 6-1 Dr Edgar, 8-1 Michaes, 10-1 Double Echo

NAT TO THE HUMBIE ON GOING: Standard STALLS: 5' & tra6' cutside, rest traite. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Middle to high up to Tr.

Fibresand surface; left-band charp, cvel course.

@Course is can W of Neweris, ADMISSION Cub 5'2: Telepress 26 (CAP DARKS Free.

@LEADING JOCKETS: J Quinn 34-480 (73%), L Charnock 33-348 (927%), Deen McKerown 27-317 (93%), Cothene 23-227 (01%),

FAVOURITIES: 527-1286 (94.5%).

PANOURITIES: 527-1286 (94.5%).

PANOURITIES: 527-1286 (94.5%).

GENERAL Equation (Miscred, 120), Cabcherge Gio-77 (visored, 2.55). DALL.

Fifth Test: Rain denies tourists chance to level the series

#### England overcome by the elements

England 403 & 233-3 West Indies 262 & 112-2 Match drawn

ENGLAND'S chances of winning this Test match and levelling the series were dealt a cruel hlow by unseasonal rain in Bridgetown yesterday. Although play eventually got under way after lunch, an episode that saw England dismiss both opening batsmen, further rain led to the match being abandoned as a draw after tea.

Although the nutcome was desperately disappointing for those looking forward to an exciting, full final day's cricket, the arrival of unexpected rain was entirely in keeping with a series whose sundry twists and turns have made it compulsive

The El Niño effect attracts the hlame for most pestilences and plagues around the globe. Now it seems its departure will be equally vilified, at least by England's cricketers and their supporters, who were no doubt confident of a second successive win, at the previously unconquerable bastion of West Indies cricket, the Kensington Oval.

In fact, the draw was probably favourite, followed by an England win, even before rain had interceded. By the time it had stopped, however, and the mopping up had been completed, only the possibility of 71 overs to bowl out the West Indies was available to England as

play eventually got under way previous day, took a testing through brought Brian Lara

But if the curious timing pleased those who live by such precision, it nonplussed Clayton Lambert, who after a shaky opening over against Phil Tufnell, proceeded to sky a pull off Angus Fraser, and give England the best possible chance of getting something meaningful out of an already abbreviated day.

Lambert, playing only his second Test since his debut against England six and a half years ago, seems to follow a pattern when he hats. A stocky man, he appears to start off by taking on the howlers with some hig shots before tightening up and biding his time. It is a tactic many hatsmen use, but with his side third favourites to win here, it was probably illadvised. Undeterred, however, he tried to launch Fraser's second ball over midwicket, Fortunately for England, it caught the top edge and flew high to wide mid-on, where Dean Headley, no doubt mindful of the sitter he had dropped the

Bridgetown scoreboard

The wicket left Philo Wallace, an even lustier striker than Lambert, caught in two minds. But if he began carefully, he soon opened his shoulders, and he brought up his half-century with a mighty straight six off Tufnell. Wallace, a riveting and

watchable success here on his home ground, has been labelled, by some eminent onlookers as nothing more than a swiper, It is an unfair assessment and when he needed it, his defensive bat was straight and still. His weakness, and one common to most lusty strikers, is that he plants his front foot down the pitch early in order to get his weight going forward. However, if the ball is not there to hit, as Andy Caddick's nin-hacker later proved when it had him lbw, it leaves him with no option hut to retract it back into line with the stumps.

It was the first time in the series, the West Indies openers had been successful. But if the break-

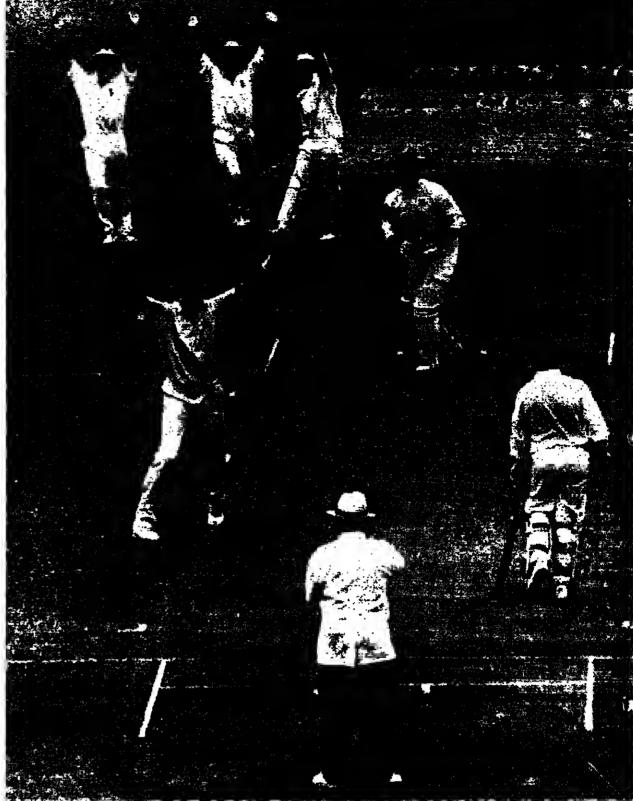
and Shivnarine Chanderpaul, to the crease, any hopes of parting them quickly - Thinell got a scuttler past Lara's outside edge - were dashed when another bout of rainfall arrived to send the batamen running for cover.

In some ways it was a bonus that play took place at all and when Atherton and his men turned up at the ground in the morning, the scene that greeted - rain and a ground covered with plastic sheeting - them was more akin to Manchester than an island in the Caribbean.

When he first started at Lancashire, Atherton was a renowned weather spotter who rejoiced in watching rain fall. Yesterday, with a captain's concern. he watched grim faced as groundstaff pottered about mopping up the first significant rain to fall in Barbados since November. In this hi-tech age of

water hogs and underground drainage, the method used to get water off the covers bordered on the farcical. Dressed in fetching yellow anoraks, several groundstaff would soak up the excess with mobile sponge mops before emptying the contents into a lone wheelbarrow, which would then be taken to the boundary edge and emptied. Unsurprisingly with about two acres of covers to mop up, it was a time-consuming process.

With only the most optimistic West Indies supporters claiming that rain was, in fact, saving England, the delays ate away precious time, time only West Indies could afford to



England's Andy Caddick traps Philo Wallace leg before in Bridgetown yesterday

Photograph: David Ashdown

#### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

Lambert & Headley b Franchis, 60 balls, 6 louis)
Values tow to Caddick
mits, 60 balls, 6 louis)
Values tow to Caddick
Lant net

22. Creature shy about sitting

- **ACROSS** Skilled worker makes a A sphere of liquidity natu-
- As good as anti? Could be
- 10 Support one in misdeeds heing so? (7)
  Preoccupation with outside broadcast conference
  27 Suggesting younger type with no idea of time? (7)
  Feature of uniform alien heing so? (7)
- 12 Keeping Los Angeles for Spanish is pivotal (5) 13 In forbidden territory you must have had to do this
- 15 Flashing lamp on railway going over river is exactly as it should be (9) 17 Clarify advice which smakers could find ac-
- 19 Something a bit extra about new hair treatment
- sert (4-5) fore di
- 25 Cooked teas at one will do more than fill (7) Some quite miserable list
- to English man (7)
- A hit with poem is fash-ionable (1,2,4) Flier secures right answer for movement of goods
- Natural light is filtering up into cavity (5)
  Hard fruit given minister
  is not potentially proper

Hamlet, we hear (5)

- Women as a body press for decorative material What royalty need is a

- plant (7) 18 Baby needs still to come
- spain allowed to crap peo ple in iron? (7) Revolutionary on ship in which mate plays an im-portant role (5) Where a fight could take ace about name in Alcoholics Anonymous (5)
- drink sent up about one
- Alfred comes in to take
- plunder from horse (7) 14 Create due changes in characters? (2-7)
- Space's shape is changing to produce stress (9) If such, could be a sort of
- in fresh (7) 20 A time of success in organising Latin for mar-riage (7) Spain allowed to clap peo-

#### Lee leaves City with attack on club's managers The 53-year-old Lee resigned an extent that it has become vidual managers, but the bulk of into the club by Lee, offered

#### Football

By Alan Nixon

reign at Manchester City's chairman ended yesterday for "personal, family and business reasons". The millionaire and former City striker, who was swept to power by popular support four years ago, was driven out by spectator miscontent as the club sit perflously in the First Division's relegation zone.

He went with a withering swipe at the Maine Road managers who he claimed have wasted millions on poor players and criticised the people inside life and husiness life have been the club who "have tried to hlacken my name".

stein-a life-long supporter who statement. Connection - in charge. Demis Theart, another former City player, becomes director of football, with John Wardle, the boss of JD Sports, joining the board.

Lee paid £3m for a 29.9 per cent stake in City in February 1994. Eight managers and £30m spent on players later, they are facine relegation to the Second Division for the first time in their history - a struggle which

still draws 30,000 crowds. "My family life, personal severely disrupted by events over the past few months to such

as chairman and as a director, impossible and impractical for signings under his chairmanship leaving his deputy, David Bern- me to carry on," Lee said in a were made by Alan Ball and the club will have to cut-their "As a ni

pride in playing for Manches-

ter City and I was also very proud to have become chairman. Consequently, over the last four years I have tried very hard to create a situation where everyone would be proud pleased and privileged to be associated with Manchester City. "I feel I have done my very

best for the club. However many improvements are made off the field it is the improvements on it for which the chairman is judged. I leave with my integrity and character intact." Lee did not single out indi-

us on the pitch," Lee said. "The purchase of players have not been worth the value we have paid for them, with the odd exception like Georgi Kinkladze." He denied that he had interfered with team selection. "I

them right. It has not worked for

have been accused of all kinds of things which are totally untrue," he said. "There are, behind the scenes at Maine Road. some very insincere people, who have tried to blacken my name. There were enemies within and without."

Bernstein, who was brought

Frank Clark. "We have not cloth according to their finances. supporters feel. I feel exactly the same way, absolutely awful," he

said. "We will give it everything." However, he suggested the possibility of standing aside if new money was forthcoming and many observers feel his spell as chairman will be short-lived. Mike McDonald, the Sheffield

United chairman, has been pushing for a stake in City for some time. The position of the manager Joe Royle, who was appointed in

February, appears secure. Maine line to nowhere

end of the season. Smillie took

over as caretaker manager when

John Gregory was appointed

ager, signed Swiss striker Gae-

tano Giallanza last night to help

the cluh's relegation fight. The

under-21 international signed

on loan for the rest of the sea-

son from the French side Nantes.

Colin Todd, the Bolton man-

Aston Villa manager.

#### Wright outburst may still lead to court case

investigation into an alleged outburst at fans by the Arsenal striker Ian Wright following the club's 3-1 home defeat by Blackburn last December.

Scotland Yard officers, who took a host of statements from supporters following the game at Highbury, could have thrown out the case but they decided to submit a file to the Crown Prosecution Service at the end of last week for advice on whether there is enough evidence for tonight. Hodgson has already Wright to be charged and forced to undergo a court case, Scotland Yard confirmed vesterday.

The CPS could now take a couple of weeks or even months to rule on the case yet Wright made a move for Dublin and is is likely to know the outcome of their deliberations by the end of the season.

The England striker is alleged to have launched a tirade of abuse at supporters from the window of his team's dressing-room after the game on 13 December.

Blackburn's manager, Roy Hodgson, plans to sign Coventry's Dion Dublin in a £5m deal this week-if Gordon Strachan's men go out of the FA Cup

willing to pay the asking price. The Manchester United

goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel, who tore a hamstring in his side's 1-0 defeat against Arsenal on Saturday, was none the less named as a non-playing member of Denmark's 18-man squad for their friendly against Scotland in

Glasgow on 25 March. The Walsall chairman, Jeff Bonser, has resigned following demonstrations by fans against

Registered us a newspaper with the Post Office

Grimsby. Bonser said he would be putting the club up for sale. Southampton have signed the teenage striker Cosimo Sali on loan from the Italian Second. Division side Torino until the

end of the season. The QPR defender Keith Rowland has withdrawn from the Northern Ireland squad to face Slovakia at Windsor Park on 25 March because his thigh wound will not heal in time.

Wycombe have confirmed him at Saturday's game at 'Neil Smillie as manager until the

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Police are studying a video of crowd trouble which marred Cheltenham Town's FA Trophy match with Hayes at the weekend. A hundred fans invaded the pitch after Cheltenham had won the game with the only goal minutes from the end.

Newcastle disunited, page

#### spanish inquisition?

aston villa vs athletico madrid from 7:30pm tonight on



